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Near East & South Asia

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LD161404 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

U.S. Helicopters Fired On—Iranian defense units fired on U.S. military helicopters flying reconnaissance over a Kuwaiti convoy 12 February after the craft allegedly failed to heed warnings that they had intruded into Iranian waters near Sirri and Abu Musa Islands and nearby oil platforms, Tehran radio reported. A military spokesman cited by the station termed the U.S. action "provocative" and declared that Iranian combatants are "prepared to teach another unforgettable lesson" to U.S. forces in the Gulf.

Drones Downed—On 11 February Iraqi air defense forces shot down a "guided object" near the border with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses announced. The drone, which entered Iraqi air space south of Al-Ma'aniyah along international air route R-19, was launched by Israel from "occupied territory" and with the intent of gathering intelligence for Iran, the communique charged. Following a denial from the Israeli Foreign Ministry reported by Jerusalem radio 13 February, an Iraqi military spokesman reaffirmed the accusations to MENA, adding that Iraq has "all the technical details" of the drone. INA reported 15 February that two Iranian drones were shot down and that one crashed inside Iraq.

Action in Gulf—Iraqi warplanes scored "accurate and effective" hits on two very large maritime targets near Sirri Island 12 February, a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio reported. On 15 February Iraqi jets attacked a similar target off the coast of Iran, INA reported. Earlier in the same day, helicopter gunships sank four Iranian boats with all hands aboard, a military statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio announced, noting that the craft were part of an 11-boat force which was trying to approach Al-'Amiq port.

Attack on PLO 'Return' Ship

The PLO's plan to organize a "boat of return" to Israel was again thwarted when a ship which the PLO had intended to use for that purpose was holed by an explosion in the Cypriot port of Limassol 15 February, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Yasir 'Arafat and other PLO officials accused Israel's Mosad of sabotaging the vessel, Athens radio noted, but claims of responsibility were made by anonymous callers on behalf of the Damascus-based PNSF, the Jewish Defense League, and the "Martyr Rasim al-Ghul" group. The PNSF later issued a statement denying any involvement in the attack, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Before news of the explosion was publicized, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin spoke of Israel's decision "not to allow the PLO to achieve its aims" concerning the voyage, Jerusalem radio reported. Israeli political sources maintained that the PLO itself carried out the explosion in an attempt to extricate itself from a situation that has turned into a "farce," the radio added.

The attack on the PLO ship followed the assassination of three PLO officials in Limassol the previous day, Nicosia radio noted, adding that the three Palestinians were reportedly in charge of negotiations over the purchase or lease of the ship. PLO sources cited by AFP disclosed that two of the men killed in the car-bomb explosion were members of the Fatah command responsible for the Israeli-occupied territories, while the other was a member of Fatah's military command in Lebanon. Commenting on this "ugly crime by the Zionist enemy," PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir told Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio that their "martyrdom" will increase the PLO's determination to continue its struggle. A PLO statement reported by KUNA said the PLO may respond to Israel's "crimes" by reconsidering the 1985 Cairo Declaration, in which 'Arafat pledged that the PLO would not undertake operations against targets outside "occupied Palestine."

Israel

Occupied Territories—Two Arab youths were killed and five wounded when IDF soldiers opened fire at rioters in Nabulus 12 February, Jerusalem radio reported. Other recent developments reported by the radio included the capture of three Gaza residents who had been making a bomb, the arrest of 21 suspected agitators in the Jerusalem area, and the arrest of over 20 Druze during riots in the Golan village of Majdal Shams. A number of rioters and police officers were injured during the violence in Majdal Shams, and the Israeli authorities canceled permission for a number of Druze to visit relatives in Syria.

In another development, the IDF spokesman announced that military police are investigating a 5 February incident near Nabulus in which Israeli soldiers buried alive four Palestinian youths, THE JERUSALEM POST reported. Two soldiers have been arrested in connection with the incident and additional arrests are expected, the spokesman disclosed. DAVAR said the Palestinians were rescued by relatives after soldiers threw them into a pit and used a bulldozer to cover them with earth.

Response to Shultz—Asked to comment on the U.S. secretary of state's view that the decisive principle in peace negotiations should be land in exchange for peace, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told IDF radio that "this is not exactly the principle that guides my actions." However, sources close to Shamir said they do not expect that differences over this principle will play a major role during George Shultz' upcoming visit to Israel, THE JERUSALEM POST noted. In contrast, Foreign Ministry sources maintained that Shamir and Shultz are set on a clear collision course, the paper added.

Lebanon

An investigation is underway into an attempt to assassinate President Amin al-Jumayyil by placing a bomb aboard a Boeing-707 that was scheduled to carry him on a foreign tour, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The explosive charge was discovered in the nose of the aircraft on 12 February when checks were made into the cause of interference with its radio system. The radio cited reports that the charge was primed to detonate during Al-Jumayyil's journey from Cyprus to Sanaa. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon accused Syria of responsibility for the assassination attempt.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Recent visits to Syria and Egypt by Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i were linked with Jordan's continuous consultations and contacts with Arab leaders on current developments and on "ideas that have emerged in the Arab and international arenas" following the Palestinian "uprising," Amman television reported. Al-Rifa'i stressed that Jordan is coordinating with Syria and the two countries have adopted a "unified position" on the requirements of peace, the report added. According to UAE press reports cited by WAKH, Al-Rifa'i's visits to Damascus and Cairo revealed discrepancies in the content of the U.S. proposals presented to each Arab state by different U.S. officials.

In another development, Kuwait's AL-QABAS reported that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has asked King Husayn to stop his mediation between Iraq and Syria, Radio Monte Carlo noted 13 February. The report coincided with a sharp attack on the Iraqi regime by Syria's TISHRIN. In an editorial carried by SANA, the paper said Iraq harbors "blind hatred" for Syria and is seeking to drive all Arabs into a foolish and destructive war with Iran.

As for Syrian-PLO relations, PLO official Salah Khalaf linked the Algerian foreign minister's current visit to Syria with a new Algerian attempt to mediate between the two sides, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Jordan

According to an "Eastern diplomatic source" cited by AL-ITTIHAD, work to complete the installation of a "sophisticated SAM-8 air defense network" was "personally supervised" by the head of a high-level Soviet military delegation which recently visited Jordan, WAKH reported. The source added that Jordan procured the air defense system after the breakdown of negotiations to buy fully equipped MiG-29 warplanes.

Iran

Petrovskiy Visit—In continuation of his visit, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy was received by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi who hoped for a further expansion of bilateral ties, IRNA reported 15 February. Musavi praised the Soviet will to withdraw from Afghanistan, and he stated that "anti-U.S. sentiments have eased because of the Soviet presence in Afghanistan." In an interview with JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI cited by Tehran radio, Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said he told the Soviet official that Iran "will help the Soviets so that a U.S.-inspired regime will not come to power in Afghanistan after Moscow withdraws." Following a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Petrovskiy expressed satisfaction with the "upward trend" in bilateral relations, IRNA reported, adding that the official also held talks with Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister for international economic affairs.

Relations With Turkey—Foreign Minister Velayati traveled to Ankara where he and his Turkish counterpart, Mesut Yilmaz, began talks on expanding bilateral relations 15 February, Tehran radio reported, noting that Yilmaz commented on the "immense importance" of the oil pipeline project linking the two countries.

Explosion in Tehran—A car bomb exploded in northern Tehran 16 February, injuring 10 people and damaging nearby vehicles and buildings, IRNA reported, adding that the attack was attributed to "agents of the world arrogance."

Pardons Granted—On the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the Islamic revolution, 989 prisoners in Yazd and Esfahan Provinces were pardoned, and the sentences of 255 others in Esfahan were "commuted," IRNA reported 16 February. On 13 February, the agency reported from Semnan that 116 prisoners were pardoned and released, adding that 42 inmates convicted on charges of drug trafficking had their sentences commuted.

Afghanistan

Arab Diplomacy—Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, who heads a delegation touring a number of Arab countries in the Mideast and North Africa, arrived in Damascus from Libya 13 February, Kabul radio reported. Wakil delivered a message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and conferred with high-level officials before continuing on to Jordan 15 February. In a speech at Amman airport, Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri remarked that he was pleased to welcome the first official Afghan delgation to visit Jordan in 10 years, Kabul radio noted.

Border Problems With Pakistan—"Extremist groups" recently fired some 700 surface-to-surface rockets across the Pakistani border into Spin Buldak District, Qandahar Province, Kabul radio reported 15 February, adding that one person was killed and "hundreds" wounded. In a statement handed to the Pakistani charge, the Foreign

Ministry denied that Afghan artillery shelled the Chaman area 5 January and that Afghan warplanes bombed Bajawar Agency 25 January and reiterated that "such groundless accusations" only "aggravate the situation," the radio reported.

Sudan

Bor Siege Broken—The Sudanese Armed Forces succeeding in breaking the rebel siege on the Upper Nile town of Bor 13 February and resupplied government troops garrisoned there, SUNA announced. The rebel soldiers suffered "heavy casualties," including 110 killed, while the government has lost only 8 men during its advance from Juba to Bor, the agency added. In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, a government spokesman asserted that the military is in "full control" of the security situation in the south, SUNA reported 15 February; however, he was unable to confirm the "liberation" of Kapoeta, the agency noted. The spokesman also reiterated that the government has issued "unequivocal directives" that the armed forces should not "attack or disrupt" relief convoys.

Coalition Reaffirmed—The ruling Al-Ummah and Democratic Unionist Parties pledged to continue their ruling coalition, according to an AL-AYYAM report cited by SUNA. The agreement reached 13 February by a "high-level committee" of representatives from the two parties resolved disputes over the leadership of major state organs and addressed issues of domestic and foreign policy, the report added.

Tunisia-Libya

Pursuant to a recent agreement signed by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, the common border between the two countries was opened 15 February, Tunis radio announced. In a meeting with a Tunisian tourist bound for Libya, President Ben Ali expressed his "deep satisfaction with the new era" in bilateral relations, the radio reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Variation' in U.S. Proposals Reported

JN160845 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0715 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Dubayy, 16 Feb (WAKH)—Press reports in Dubayy, the UAE, today said that Jordanian contacts with both Damascus and Cairo have revealed great variation in the formulas of the U.S. proposals which were presented to each Arab state, a matter which necessitates coordination, consultation, and caution regarding the separate U.S. dealings with each Arab country.

The newspaper AL-BAYAN published in Dubayy today cited reliable sources in Amman as saying that the positive and advanced proposals presented to Amman by U.S. envoy Philip Habib are to a large extent different from the negative and repeated proposals Richard Murphy brought to Damascus. They are also different from the opinions and approaches Egyptian President Husni Mubarak heard in Washington.

These sources pointed out that Jordan, which had informed the USSR of what Philip Habib carried with him during his visit to Amman, would call for an Arab summit if U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz were to present new elements of the U.S. initiative to settle the Middle East crisis.

Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i concluded two short visits to Damascus and Cairo yesterday. During the visits, he acquainted the two countries' leaderships with the U.S. proposals on the Palestine question. Jordan has also invited a PLO representative to hold talks with him on the U.S. initiative.

PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas arrived in Amman last night for this purpose.

Iraq Asks Jordan To End Reconciliation Efforts

JN131349 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS said today that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn recently asked Jordan's King Husayn to stop his mediation efforts to reconcile Syria and Iraq because Syria has not changed its stand on the Iraq-Iran war and has continued efforts to reconcile Iran and the Arabian Gulf states, which Baghdad says contradicts the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman.

The Syrian newspaper TISHRIN today accused Iraqi President Saddam Husayn of working to drag the Arab states into a destructive war with Iran, which will be a crippling blow to the Arab regimes.

Tunisian, Libyan Officials Discuss Cooperation

LD130344 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0000 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Mr Tawfiq Cheikhrouhou, minister of social affairs, has had talks with Mr 'Abd al-Ati al-Ubaydi, the Libyan permanent representative to the Arab League, about prospects for cooperation in the fields of manpower, social security, and other social sectors in light of the recent talks held during Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Tunisia and the directives given by the leaders of both countries to consolidate cooperation in these fields.

The talks also included preparing for a meeting of the supreme Tunisian-Libyan committee, to be held at the end of next March. Within this context, it has been decided to call a meeting of the technical committee for social security and manpower before the end of February.

UN Arab Group Discusses PLO Mission Closure

LD122114 Kuwait KUNA in English 2008 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] United Nations, Feb 12 (KUNA)—The Arab Group met for nearly two hours Friday to discuss "options" in the event of an expected American decision to shut down the Palestine Liberation Organisation's U.N. mission.

Current Arab Group Chairman Karim I. al-Shakar of Bahrain told KUNA after the meeting an official statement would be issued expressing concern about the American move which it considers unacceptable.

Al-Shakar said the meeting decided to seek the support of other regional groups over the weekend and early next week and that another meeting would take place on Wednesday to assess the results of these talks.

Arab League Ambassador Clovis Maqsud, who attended the meeting, raised the possibility of U.N. meetings outside the United States.

Asked if this could mean the convening of a General Assembly meeting in Geneva or elsewhere, Maqsud said, "If worse comes to worse, yes. But the important thing is the integrity of the General Assembly.

"In our view all the invitees must have access to the General Assembly, and inasmuch as the PLO is an official invitee of the General Assembly, their access has to be complete, and without any intrusion or interruption," Maqsud said.

"If the law that has been adopted is executed then, naturally, our concern is that we must protect the integrity of the General Assembly, and that would have to be done by a change of venue of the General Assembly," he said.

Sources told KUNA the Arabs may seek retaliation against the Israeli mission on grounds that if the PLO cannot participate in General Assembly procedures, Israel should not be allowed either.

An argument heard in Washington that shutting down the PLO mission in New York would not violate the headquarters agreement so long as the PLO diplomats were allowed to stay in the U.S. and take part in U.N. affairs, Maqsud said.

"They (the PLO diplomats) are here in their individual and representative capacities. If they don't have the facilities to perform their functions adequately, then there is a disfunctioning which is not acceptable," Maqsud said.

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Explosion Aboard 'Return Ship'

No Casualties

JN151118 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1100 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Police sources in Limassol, Cyprus, said an explosion occurred at 0600 local time or 0400 GMT today aboard a ship called "Sun Free" anchored in the Cypriot port of Limassol. There were no casualties. Informed sources reported that the PLO had bought the ship last Friday.

In Athens an official spokesman for the journey of the return ship, Akram Haniyah, confirmed that "Sun Free"—aboard which an explosion occurred this morning—is the ship designated to transport the passengers taking part in the journey of the return ship. According to reports from Athens this morning, the return ship may sail today from the Cypriot port of Larnaca toward Haifa.

A spokesman for Cyprus Airways said that the PLO is negotiating with the airline about transporting Palestinian deportees and world figures and journalists on two planes to Larnaca.

In Athens, Fu'ad al-Bitar, PLO representative in Greece, today told AFP that the return ship will sail from Larnaca. However, he declined to divulge the name of the ship or the time it will sail.

Trip 'Postponed'

JN151253 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] The journey of the return ship continues to face difficulties. Following many Palestinian confirmations, the return ship was scheduled to sail toward Haifa today. However, it appears the plan has been postponed once again and perhaps canceled.

At dawn today a ship called "Sun Free" anchored in Limassol, Cyprus, was blown up at 0600 local time or 0400 GMT. The explosion aboard the vessel remained an ordinary incident in the morning until it transpired that the ship is owned by the PLO and that it was bought from a Cypriot company last Friday to be used as the return ship.

The report was confirmed in Athens before noon today by Akram Haniyah, official spokesman for the journey of the return ship and former editor of AL-QUDS newspaper who was deported by Israel. Haniyah said that the explosion blew a 65-cm hole in the ship. He declined to give any further details about the ship or the journey.

According to reports from Athens in the morning, the participants in the journey of the return ship—the 131 Palestinian returnees and about 500 world and Arab figures and correspondents—were preparing to leave Athens for Larnaca today after it was reported that the PLO had chartered two Cypriot planes with the intention of beginning the journey from Cypriot and not Greek waters. However, the explosion aboard the ship occurred today. So far, there have been no announcements by the organizers in Athens or Cyprus on the fate of the journey. It has been understood that the travel of the participants from Athens to Larnaca has been postponed to an unspecified date.

Jewish Defense League Claim

JN151436 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1400 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] In a telephone contact with the AP office in Nicosia, an anonymous caller, who said he was speaking on behalf of the Jewish Defense League, claimed responsibility for the explosion on the Palestinian return ship, "Sun Free", off Limassol coast in Cyprus this morning.

The Jewish Defense League was established in the 1960's by Me'ir Kahane, current Knesset member and leader of the extremist Israeli Kach Party.

PLO Representative in Greece Fu'ad al-Bitar held a news conference in which he accused Israel of being behind the explosion on the Palestinian return ship "Sun Free" in Limassol today. During the same news conference, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif stressed that the voyage of return to Palestine will take place despite the explosion. He added that the ship is currently being repaired.

PLO To Hire Another Ship

NC151541 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1525 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] In an urgent report from Algiers, AFP has cited Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah's second in command, as saying that the PLO will hire another ship to take the Palestinian deportees to Haifa. Abu Iyad accused what he called Zionist terrorism of sabotaging the "Sol

Phryne" ship bought by the PLO for the return trip. He also accused it of using a booby-trapped car to kill three Palestinians in Limassol Sunday.

PNSF Denies Blast Claim

JN152105 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Feb 88

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The PNSF has denied responsibility for blowing up the return ship. An anonymous caller had earlier contacted some news agencies in Athens and claimed the PNSF's responsibility for the blast. PNSF spokesman 'Abd al-Hadi al-Nashshash announced in Damascus that the PNSF had no connection whatsoever with the blast and that this accusation is baseless.

'Arafat Says Ship Hit Again

NC161219 Paris AFP in English 1203 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 16 (AFP)—An Israeli vessel early Tuesday fired an "incendiary device" on the Cypriot ferry boat "Sol Phryne," which had been chartered by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and was damaged Monday in a bomb explosion, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat charged here. (But the report was quickly denied by both authorities in the southern Cypriot port of Limasol, where the "Sol Phryne" is berthed, and Limassol police. They said there had been no reports of any explosion or damage aboard the vessel on Tuesday.)

Mr 'Arafat told a press conference here than an "Israeli boat penetrated Cypriot territorial waters at dawn on Tuesday and fired an incendiary device that set the ferry boat ablaze."

PLO leaders on Monday accused Israeli intelligence services of having planted a bomb on the "Sol Phryne," which was to have been used by the organization to carry Palestinian deportees, supporters and journalists on a symbolic return voyage to the Israeli port of Haifa. Israel has condemned the PLO operation and has warned that the "boat of return" would not be allowed to enter Israeli territorial waters.

PLO Identifies 3 Arabs Killed by Car Bomb

NC141513 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Three Palestinians were killed when a bomb exploded inside their automobile in Limassol this afternoon. PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif identified the three as Abu Qasim Hasan, Marwan Kilani, and Hamdi [no surname as heard]. He accused Israeli intelligence of planning the incident.

Abu Nidal Group To Retaliate

JN160920 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] The Fatah-Revolutionary Council, which is known as the Abu Nidal group, has pledged to swiftly carry out retaliatory operations against Israeli intelligence circles following the car blast which killed three Palestinian cadres in Limassol, Cyprus, last Sunday. In a statement in Beirut yesterday, the Fatah-Revolutionary Council stressed that the victims were from its cadres.

In Tunis, an official PLO spokesman accused Israeli intelligence circles of assassinating the three Fatah cadres. He affirmed that the PLO will retaliate for those martyrs.

Khalaf Views Algerian Mediation With Syria

JN160731 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] At a meeting in Algiers yesterday, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, said Algeria intends to mediate again between Syria and the PLO. Abu Iyad asserted that the PLO extends its hand to Syria, adding that the issue of the new Algerian mediation was raised during talks he held yesterday with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Foreign Minister Ibrahimi.

Abu Iyad called for holding the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory above all other considerations because it has shortened the road to a settlement of the Middle East crisis, ended futile discussions, and proved a solution can only be effected in three stages: withdrawing Israeli troops, sending international forces, and recognizing the Palestinians' right to self-determination. He added that the PLO supports convening an international conference with the participation of an independent Palestinian delegation.

Abu Iyad criticized the Arab states that ask the PLO to accept Resolution 242. If the PLO accepts this resolution there will be no Palestinian cause or a PLO.

It was learned in Damascus that Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi had arrived there yesterday on a visit of several days. In Algiers, it was announced that Ibrahimi bears a message from Algerian President Bendjedid for Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Nothing was divulged on the contents of the message.

PLO No Longer Committed to Cairo Declaration

JN160646 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has said that the Palestinians consider the assassination of the three Palestinian cadres and the blast aboard the return ship in Limassol in Cyprus to be tantamount to a declaration of war against the PLO. A Palestinian official

in Tunis stated that the PLO is no longer committed to honoring the Cairo Declaration. He said the Palestinian commitment to ceasing anti-Israeli operations outside the occupied homeland was conditional on the other side's making a similar decision.

It is worth mentioning that the Cairo Declaration was issued on 7 November 1985. In this declaration, Yasir 'Arafat condemned terrorism by a state, a group, or an individual against innocent and unarmed peoople. 'Arafat also said that operations which are carried out outside the occupied territory harm the Palestinian people and tarnish their battle. However, 'Arafat noted that the Palestinian commitment cannot be a unilateral one.

KUNA Notes PLO Stance

LD160944 Kuwait KUNA in English 0807 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Limassol, Cyprus, Feb 16 (KUNA)—A spokesman for Palestine Liberation Organization last night hinted that the PLO would reconsider the Cairo Declaration on stopping military operations against enemy targets outside occupied Palestine, following the Israeli crimes committed against the Palestinians and Palestinian interests in Cyprus in the past two days.

The spokesman said in a press release distributed to the media here, that Israel knows that the PLO is not hand-cuffed, although it (the PLO) abided by the Cairo Declaration.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has responded to calls from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and other Arab parties when he announced in Cairo in 1985 that the PLO will stop military operations against Israeli and other anti-Palestinian targets outside occupied Palestine.

The PLO accuses the Israeli Mossad of being behind the assassination of three Palestinian officials in Cyprus last Sunday and the mining of the ship of return hours before it was due to set sail to Israeli coast Monday. Hundreds of Palestinian exiles and peace-loving figures in addition to journalists from different parts of the world were scheduled to board the ship.

On the other hand, the PLO spokesman denied allegations made by Israeli ambassador to Cyprus that the assassination of the three Palestinians was due to inter-Palestinian differences and described the Israeli claim as an attempt "to cover up the ugly crime committed by elements of the Israeli Mossad."

He added that Israel's insistence on repeating their lies and allegations affirms "the official Israeli responsibility" in assassinating the Palestinian officials in Limassol yesterday and the blast that blew a hole in the return ship. The recent Israeli practices in "peace-loving Cyprus pose as a new series of Israeli official terrorism," the PLO spokesman stressed.

In occupied Palestine, the Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the Israeli Government will not allow the ship of return to "achieve its goals," affirming Israel will employ every means to prevent the ship from sailing. The voyage has been delayed several times due to Israeli and American pressures on owners and companies of ships that were chartered by the PLO.

Chad

Libyan Planes Overfly Bardai, Zoumri 14 Feb

AB141903 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1850 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] The Libyan Air Force this morning overflew the localities of Bardai at 0200 [0100 GMT], Zoumri at 0630, and Bardai again at 0700. This constant violation of our airspace by the Libyans is taking place at a time when the OAU ad hoc committee is striving very hard to find a negotiated solution to the Chad-Libya conflict.

Authorities Deny JANA Reports of Fighting

AB122019 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1830 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Reports by the Libyan press on the resumption of hostilities in southern and eastern Chad and even near Ndjamena are false. Ndjamena has denied these rumors. For further details, let us listen to our permanent correspondent in Ndjamena, Abba Likaya:

[Begin recording] There is no combat in Chad. Reports by JANA of fighting in eastern Chad and near Ndjamena have surprised more than one observer in the Chadian capital. For the Chadian authorities, there is not even a need to deny the reports. It is out of the question to play this game with Libya. Foreign observers in Ndjamena note that Chad recently achieved great successes on the international scene. The organizing in that country last year of the summit meetings of the ABN [expansion unknown], the CBLT [Lake Chad Basin Commission], and the UDEAC [Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa]; last month's ICDCS [Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel] summit; the holding over the past few days of the follow-up meeting of the [word indistinct] conference on the transport sector; and the rallying of four political organizations to the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR] are all developments that have irritated the Tripoli regime.

The Tripoli regime has embarked on a campaign of disinformation and deception in order to destroy the achievements of President Hissein Habre's government, it was learned from official sources. What is certain, on the other hand, is that Libya, which fears an unfavorable verdict at the next meeting of the heads of state of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya border dispute, has been actively making military preparations. From authorized Chadian sources it was learned that Libya has for several days been concentrating troops and equipment on Chad's northern, eastern, and western borders. These reports, it was noted in the Chadian capital, are more of the gross lies which JANA is in the habit of providing to national and international public opinion. [end recording]

Libyan Disinformation Denounced

AB132056 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] Radio Tripoli, like its sister JANA, is not ashamed to make a fool of itself. Last Thursday [11 February] Radio Tripoli spoke of violent fighting, supposedly between the FANT and a so-called First Army of the Frolinat in southeastern Chad, adding that the fighting even extended up to the area near Ndjamena. This radio station unashamedly added that Frolinat had inflicted heavy casualties on President Hissein Habre's forces. These totally unfounded reports which, unfortunately, were reproduced by certain media, at least hint to us that the bloody regime of Tripoli is preparing to launch its troops against FANT positions. Intensive preparations have been going on for some time. These allegations by the Libyan media are therefore part of a disinformation campaign that Tripoli embarks upon each time it is preparing to attack Chad. Al-Qadhdhafi is doing all these things to undermine the efforts of the OAU, whose decisions, he is convinced, will not be in his favor.

Furthermore, as part of this vast disinformation campaign, it has recently been said in Libya that many Chadians returning home have been either executed, imprisoned, or tortured. Personalities like (El Hadj Sallet Barkaye), subprefect of Bardai; (El Hadj Souboudiet Cheyemi), district chief of Bardai; (Ali Souboudou); and (Sonou Soukoto), who was recently appointed officer in charge of special missions at the Presidency are, according to these allegations, among the victims. (Sonou Soukoto) insisted on making the following clarifications:

[Begin (Soukoto) recording in local dialect fading into French translation] This campaign of disinformation does not come as a surprise to us, because telling lies has become an everyday affair for the Libyans. I do not even need to respond. However, I would like to tell our countrymen who remain in Libya not to pay any attention to what the Libyans are saying. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Embassy in France Protests Red Cross Report

PM121150 Paris LE MONDE in French 12 Feb 88 p 2

[Unattributed report: "A Chadian Communique"]

[Text] The Chadian Embassy in France, "outraged by the rash statements made by the International Red Cross Committee [ICRC] on Libyan prisoners in Chad" [as published], condemns the "good report" given to the "Al-Qadhdhafi terrorist regime" and accuses the ICRC of "siding with the aggressor and with terrorism against the victim and the law." "If the ICRC allows itself to be taken in by the Libyan Special Services," the communique continues, "the same is not true of Chad. Libya has

never taken any Chadian prisoners of war. All the prisoners were either summarily executed or enlisted into the Islamic army. The alleged prisoners to which the ICRC refers were undoubtedly specially drawn from the peace-loving Chadian community living in Libya." "The ICRC's blackmail is unacceptable," the communique concludes, "and this institution's officials must return to a better attitude. If they do, Chad will pursue its customary policy of cooperation with them, with respect for its own sovereignty, dignity, and independence."

French Foreign Minister Stops Over 15 Feb

Talks With Habre

AB152041 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] En route to southern Africa, the French foreign minister stopped over for a few hours in Chad and held talks with President Hissein Habre. Also present at the meeting were the minister of foreign affairs, Gouara Lassou, and the permanent under secretary at the Presidency of the Republic [name indistinct]. Mr Jean-Bernard Raimond, who is paying his first visit to Chad, was accompanied by the French ambassador to Chad, Christian de la Rochere. Following the meeting, which lasted for more than 1 hour, the French foreign minister told our colleagues—including Moussa Dago—what they had discussed:

[Begin recording] Well, I have had the honor and the pleasure of holding lengthy talks with President Hissein Habre, on the occasion of my first visit to Chad, as part of an African tour that will take me to Mozambique, Angola, and later Libreville in Gabon. We spoke about the situation in southern Africa, and in particular about the developing relations between France and Mozambique. We also discussed the problems Chad is facing, cooperation with Chad, and the recent bilateral agreements. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Habre Notes Imminent Libyan War

AB161149 Paris AFP in French 1003 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Ndjamena, 15 Feb [Date as received] (AFP)—War could resume between Chad and Libya, as demonstrated by the concentration of Libyan troops and military materiel on the borders of Chad. This was stated this evening by the Chadian president, Mr Hissein Habre, after receiving in Ndjamena the French minister of foreign affairs, Mr Jean-Bernard Raimond, who is on his way to southern Africa. "The war could resume in Chad. A number of facts bear this out, notably the concentration of Libyan troops and military materiel in the Aozou region (claimed by both Ndjamena and Libya,) at Ma'tan al-Sarah (in southeast Libya,) and in the Sudanese border region of Darfur," said Mr Habre. According to the Chadian president: "There is a desire for revenge by (Colonel) Al-Qadhdhafi," following his latest military defeats in Chad. "The Libyan Air Force is still overflying northern Chad in violation of the cease-fire" agreed upon by the two countries last September, he said, and these facts show that Libya "is preparing for war rather than for peace." The Chadian president wished success to the mediation of the OAU ad hoc committee charged with the Chad-Libyan dispute and which he said "is working with determination and goodwill." (A meeting of heads of member states of the committee is to be held in early April in Dakar.)

On the issue of French-Chadian cooperation, which he discussed with Mr Raimond, the Chadian president said French economic and military aid to Chad is continuing. The French foreign minister also expressed the wish that the OAU ad hoc committee would arrive at "positive conclusions." At the end of his visit to Mozambique and Angola, the french minister will stop over in Gabon (the current chairman of the OAU).

French Fund Finances Water, Electrical Projects

AB132129 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] An agreement was signed today at the Ministry of Finance and Computerization on the opening of a credit line of Fr33 million, or 1.65 billion CFA francs, by Finance and Computerization Minister Ngarnayal Mbailemdana, representing the Government of Chad, and Mr (Berssant), director of the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, in Ndjamena. Also present at the signing ceremony were, on the Chadian side, (Mahamat Adekoute Mbayale), director general of the STEE [Chadian Water and Electricity Company], and (Boufouli Soarebat), head of the external finance service.

This loan, which will be transferred by the Republic of Chad to the STEE, is in addition to the loan of Fr2 million, or 400 million CFA francs, granted to Chad by the same institution last December. These sums are meant for the purchase of materials necessary for the accomplishment of the vast reorganization program undertaken by the STEE. These programs are meant especially for the rehabilitation of the power plants of Ndjamena, Sarh, and Moundou, which have become [word indistinct].

Lassou Signs Financial Agreement With FRG

AB152157 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The foreign minister, Gouara Lassou, this morning received the director for African affairs at the FRG Foreign Ministry, Ambassador (Humuld). A press statement issued this morning pointed out that their talks had centered on bilateral relations, as well as on world issues. The good and friendly German-Chadian relations play an important role in general FRG relations with Africa, the statement noted. At the end of their talks, the minister of foreign affairs, Gouara Lassou, and the FRG ambassador to Chad, Hilmar Kaht, signed a financial cooperation agreement for 800 million CFA

francs. The money will be used to purchase equipment and for services that are important for the development and rehabilitation of Chad. This agreement will strengthen economic cooperation between Chad and the FRG, an exemplary cooperation which covers several other fields. [passage omitted]

Six Political Movements Join Ruling Party

AB142135 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Another political event of national importance took place this morning at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was the integration of six political movements within our great unifying movement, the UNIR, the National Union for Independence and Revolution. They are: the National Democratic Rally of Chad, led by Dr (Demboko Kari Nyok); the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Chad, led by (Mbangadi Bernard Dowonou); the Original Front of (Abdel-Kader Yacine Batek); the National Islamic (?Liberation) Front, led by (Zakaria Moussa Hissein al-Barakhi); the Frolinat, represented by (Abdel-Karim Mahamat al-Jari); and the Chadian People's Union for National Reconstruction, represented by (Amin Abukar Oumar). These political movements joined the UNIR this morning. The membership ceremony was chaired by Comrade Gouara Lassou, executive secretary of the UNIR representing the UNIR founding chairman, President El Hadj Hissein Habre. All top political, military, and diplomatic officials were present at the ceremony, as well as a large number of militants.

In their statements, the new members reviewed the political situation in Chad from independence to 1982, a situation characterized by serious division, external interference, and poor management of national resources. They gave a history of their respective movements and recalled the procedure that made it possible for them to return to the country. They also stigmatized and condemned the aims of the Libyan regime in Chad and outlined the consequences for our country. They underlined the need to form a united front in the face of the Libyan enemy and the need to make the UNIR the only setting (?for this union). Lastly, they called on all fellow countrymen who are (?hesitating) or are manipulated by the Libyan regime to return to the Chadian family in order to consolidate the principle of national unity. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak To Send Message to President Reagan

NC161131 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1102 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that President Husni Mubarak will send a message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan within the next few hours. The statement followed an expanded Cabinet meeting this morning chaired by President Mubarak. The meeting dealt with a number of domestic and foreign issues, as well as Egypt's position on efforts to achieve a just peace in the Middle East.

Mubarak, Cabinet View Foreign, Domestic Issues

NC161334 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak discussed a number of domestic and foreign issues during a 2-hour expanded Cabinet meeting this morning. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that, regarding foreign issues, President Mubarak examined all aspects of the political and diplomatic moves to promote comprehensive peace in the Middle East to a more advanced stage in light of the current contacts with all the concerned parties in the region. These parties have begun to promote and support the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territory as a result of the Egyptian initiative. Mubarak also discussed information and facts about the recent contacts with these parties.

According to Al-Sharif, Mubarak stressed Egypt's concern for achieving a just solution and for upholding Arab rights, noting Egypt's concern that the ideas to be set forth should be characterized by realism and flexibility. Mubarak warned of the grave consequences that may result from negative attitudes or from failure to assess the significance of the Palestinian people's uprising against the Israeli occupation.

Regarding domestic issues, Al-Sharif said that Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi reviewed the economic situation and the results of contacts with the IMF. Sidqi noted that Egypt is paying off the installments which are due to the United States and France. [passage omitted]

Officials Discuss Palestinian 'Uprising'

Mubarak Comments

NC151505 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] In the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis today, President Husni Mubarak received a Canadian parliamentary delegation led by Dr (William Weinberg), chairman of the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committees in the Canadian Parliament. He also received Neil Kinnock, British Labor Party and opposition leader.

Our correspondent in the Presidential Palace reports: [Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] President Husni Mubarak made a statement to Egyptian journalists and reporters at the Presidential Palace following his audiences today. Mubarak was asked: Your Excellency, you supported the Palestinian people's uprising and you launched your initiative to activate the

peace process. Certain people think the Egyptian initiative, which calls for a halt to acts of violence for 6 months, would halt the uprising. What is your view?

[Mubarak] In fact, the initiative or the ideas I have proposed sought to use the uprising to stimulate the peace process on the international level. Those who believe I meant to halt the uprising are wrong. This is a distortion of the facts. I answered this question at a meeting in Washington on Friday, 29 January, at a working breakfast with major commentators, Jewish leaders, senior writers, Kissinger, Brown, Vance, Weinberger, and a large group of others. I was asked: How can the Palestinian uprising be stopped for 6 months? I replied that no one can stop it. It is not a matter of just pressing a button.

The uprising is an expression of people's feelings and emotions that result from the despair and psychological strain they suffer in their land and because of their treatment as fourth and fifth class citizens, as well as from their despair over the lack of help from outside, since no one is helping the peace process. The only way to stop the uprising is to take certain measures, such as stopping the establishment of Israeli settlements; giving Palestinians their political rights; ensuring their security; and holding an international conference attended by the permament members of the UN Security Council, including the two superpowers.

By implementing these measures, we can give hope to the citizens of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Rapid movement toward a solution would persuade the Palestinian people to halt their uprising. One cannot just tell them to stop it; they are not an engine that one can turn on or off. The uprising concerns people feeling injustice; it is inevitable that it continues. I would say that this uprising is a warning. It has not yet reached its zenith. We fear the repercussions if more violence is used against these citizens who feel oppressed; the danger would be more serious. Therefore, we must proceed with a solution and not wait until the situation worsens, both inside and outside the occupied territory.

[Correspondent] Mr President, your initiative, no doubt, is an integrated whole. Every point leads to the next. Your initiative provides for the cessation of acts of violence for 6 months. How can this be achieved, in your opinion?

[Mubarak] The violence can be stopped if we proceed with these measures and prepare for an international conference sincerely and seriously, rather than use it as a maneuver. We can tell all peace-loving forces in the region, and they can convince the Palestinian people that we are on the way to a solution and that they should give us a period of 6 months. This is a proposal. It can be 3 or 5 months, or any time necessary to convince the people that we are moving along. However, if they lose confidence in us and no hope for a solution is in sight, I am afraid of what may result.

[Correspondent] Mr President, the U.S. State Department has announced that George Shultz will visit the region in the near future. Can you shed any light on the implications of this visit? Is the visit at this time meant to stimulate the peace process and is it also the product of your visit to the U.S. and your initiative?

[Mubarak] My visit to the U.S. came at a time when the uprising was very active, as it still is. Thus we have succeeded in removing the issue from deadlock and from the phase of slogans. The Americans did not tell us about any specific plan. However, we have stated that any plan must, first, clearly define a comprehensive solution to the issue and, second, must involve an international conference and not seek to circumvent it. Any plan must make provision for a final resolution of the issue. And, we must keep away from any phrases or articles that appear in the Camp David accords. This is because Camp David is outmoded; it is over and done with.

Therefore we must begin with new solutions that are comprehensive and will finally settle the issue. The uprising will not wait for the U.S. or Israeli elections. How can we arrest people's feelings by elections? Can we flick a switch and tell them to stop because elections are taking place? No. This is a question of emotions and feelings of oppression, and of movement resulting from these. How can we stop them? We can stop them by giving the people confidence that we are solving their problem. If there is no confidence that there will be a solution, I fear the results that may ensue.

Shultz is coming to the region. If he has proposals to offer to the parties concerned, I hope they will be far removed from Camp David and involve a total solution. I also hope that a solution can be reached through an international conference in which all parties can trust in and which they will all attend. Otherwise, the consequences will not be good. I do not want any initiative to fail. I hope that this initiative will aim at a final resolution of the problem and establish a just peace in the region.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr President. [end recording]

Al-Farnawani Comments

LD140959 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0728 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Feb, KUNA—In a press interview published here today, Mr Taha al-Farnawani, director of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, called on Arab countries to adopt any practical measures necessary to help the Palestinian revolution in the occupied territories. He stressed that Israel only believes in the policy of power and rejects all peaceful initiatives, whatever concessions offered.

In an interview with AL-WATAN, the Egyptian diplomat saluted the Palestinian people's struggle in the occupied territories. He said that the Palestinian cause is currently going through an important stage, which is reviving the Palestinian national liberation movement for the liberation of the usurped land of Palestine.

He stressed that Arab concessions led to nothing but an escalation of the Israeli policies of violence and oppression and disrespect of UN resolutions. At the same time he excluded the possibility that the international conference for a settlement in the Middle East would be held soon "as long as the Palestinian and Arab forces are not united".

Al-Farnawani said that the Palestinian uprising, which has been continuing for about 70 days, does not accept the unrealistic call for holding the conference. He also said that the uprising will only be satisfied with the liberation of Palestinian territories.

Concerning Palestinian-Syrian relations and how to bring the Syrian and PLO views closer, the Egyptian official stressed that without Arab solidarity neither Palestine nor the Golan will be liberated, and the comprehensive and just peace will not be achieved in the region.

He expressed his belief that, sooner or later, the United States will adopt a stance for the benefit of the Palestinian cause which will serve the stability and interests of the Arab region in order to absorb the international anger resulting from its current stances.

Al-Farnawani called on the Soviet Union, whose stance, as he said, is straightforward, clear, and supportive of the Arab cause, to increase its pressure on the United States in order to make it adopt this stance.

Algeria To Announce Resumption of Relations

JN121547 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1445 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (WAKH)—Today's issue of the Egyptian newspaper AL-WAFD said Algeria intends to announce the resumption of diplomatic relations with Egypt in the next few days. A joint statement is expected in Cairo and Algiers on the resumption of bilateral relations.

AL-WAFD cited diplomatic sources in Cairo as saying that Al-Amin Bashash [name as received], official in charge of looking after Algerian interests in Cairo, has informed a number of Arab ambassadors in Egypt of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's intention to make this decision after the conclusion of the tripartite summit among Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya, which was held in the past few days. Diplomatic reports in Cairo affirmed that Algerian officials followed up with interest President Mubarak's recent visit to Morocco and lauded the president's keenness on not discussing the Western Saharan problem in his statements. Egypt is expected to play an effective role in settling this problem after the resumption of Egyptian-Algerian relations.

Jordanian Premier Arrives for 1-Day Visit

NC151130 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i arrived in Cairo at noon today for a 1-day visit to Egypt during which he will meet with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Al-Rifa'i was received at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. [passage omitted]

Meets Mubarak, Departs

NC151620 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i said that Jordan's stand on the peace process is clear. He added that this stand has been agreed upon with the Egyptian Government as a result of the continuous fraternal coordination between President Mubarak and his brother King Husayn. He noted that Jordan insists on the convening of an international conference for peace, to be called for by the UN secretary general and to be held with the participation of the Security Council's five permanent member states and all parties to the dispute, including the PLO.

Al-Rifa'i also said that Jordan opposes any plans pertaining to partial or separate solutions, or to autonomy. He added that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory has changed many political equations and heightened interest in finding a just solution that would guarantee an end to the occupation. The Jordanian prime minister expressed his belief that the uprising will continue until the causes for its eruption have been eliminated. Consequently, Israel cannot continue to occupy these Arab territories, as it did in the past, without facing a real internal resistance.

Al-Rifa'i affirmed that Jordan coordinates its actions with all Arab states, particularly Syria. He said he had conveyed a message to President Mubarak from his brother King Husayn within the framework of the continuing consultations between them. The Jordanian prime minister disclosed in this connection that he had been given a message from President Mubarak for King Husayn responding to his majesty's message.

Answering a question about the expansion of the uprising to include the Golan Heights, Al-Rifa'i said: The Golan is occupied Arab territory like the West Bank and Gaza. It is natural that its inhabitants should resist the occupation as the inhabitants of the other occupied territories are doing.

The Jordanian prime minister left Cairo after a short visit lasting several hours.

Arab Interior Ministers Conclude Visit, Depart

NC131531 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1356 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh Khalid ibn Hamad al Thani, Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim, and Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah al Khalifah left Cairo this afternoon at the conclusion of their visit to Egypt. The three ministers had attended the celebrations marking Egyptian Police Day. They had also attended the symposium on current security issues, which was held at the police academy and was attended by representatives from 18 Arab countries.

The ministers were seen off at the airport by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; and Zaki Badr, minister of the interior.

Interior Minister Zaki Badr Leaves for Paris

NC151519 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Interior Minister Zaki Badr left Cairo at noon today for Paris on the first leg of a 1-week tour of France and the FRG. The visit comes at the invitation of the French and FRG interior ministers. It falls within the framework of international cooperation in security. [passage omitted]

UK Labor Party Leader Kinnock Arrives for Visit

NC142131 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] British Labor Party and opposition leader Neil Kinnock arrived in Cairo tonight for a 1-day visit, during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak. Kinnock also will hold discussions with senior officials.

Gorbachev Declaration on Afghanistan Welcomed

NC121208 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Egypt has welcomed CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's statement regarding the USSR's intention to begin a complete withdrawal from Afghanistan if a settlement is reached at the Geneva talks on Afghanistan.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stated this today, describing the new Soviet stand as "a positive step in the right direction." 'Abd al-Majid also voiced the hope that the United Nations would play an effective role in promoting and guaranteeing peace in Afghanistan.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt has long called for Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, the return of refugees to their homes, and freedom for the Afghan people to choose their own social and political system. [passage omitted]

Tabah Arbitration Panel Arrives in Cairo

NC152121 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2023 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Members of the Tabah Arbitration Panel, which includes the three international arbiters and the Israeli delegate, arrived in Cairo tonight. Dr Hamid Sultan, member of the Egyptian Defense Panel, will join the Arbitration Panel. Members of the Arbitration Panel were received at the airport by Ambassador Ahmad Mahir, director of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department, and Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent delegate to the European Headquarters of the United Nations.

Dr al-'Arabi stated that the Arbitration Panel will leave for Sharm al-Shaykh, tomorrow, before visiting Tabah on Wednesday to inspect the border marks, which are disputed by Egypt and Israel.

He said that the verbal argument in the Tabah case will begin on 14 March. Egypt will have the first 5 days to present all of the documentary and other evidence in support of its right to Tabah. Israel will present its viewpoint the following 5 days, Dr al-'Arabi said.

Leaves for Sharm al-Shaykh

NC161053 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The international arbitration panel on the Tabah problem left Cairo this morning for Sharm al-Shaykh. Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent envoy to the European UN headquarters in Geneva, said that the panel will visit the Tabah area tomorrow to inspect the border markers disputed by Egypt and Israel. [passage omitted]

Editorials View Israeli Policy in Territories

'Viciousness' Criticized

JN142049 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Feb 88 p 7

[Editorial: "A Historic Viciousness"]

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces have entered the annals of history with their weapons and innovative tyrannical tools in their futile feverish attempt to end the Palestinian revolutionary uprising and to torture struggling children to the point of breaking their arms and hands that throw stones.

According to doctors' accounts, the occupation forces deliberately delay the arrival of wounded at hospitals. And, according to the wounded themselves, beatings begin in the military vehicles that transport them as soon as they are encircled and arrested. The beatings continue at the military governor's headquarters and children turn into blood-mixed pieces of dough in their hands.

Foreign press reports say the usual measures followed in these barbaric practices are the haphazard storming of houses and forcing their inhabitants to come out. Then they are beaten with clubs, rifle butts, metal chains, fists, and iron tools. These savage practices were so ugly that the soldiers were divided among themselves. Some of them refused to embark on such vicious, diabolical actions. The soldiers of one of the units even clashed with each other in words and then in hands over these practices.

Voices have risen even in Israel itself warning of the consequences of such repugnant actions, which are deplored and condemned by every living conscience even if its owner is in military uniform. This is because such heinous actions are totally outside the soldiers' duties and violate military traditions. They have also turned the occupation forces into armed bands of moving thugs, something which will kill their morale and military genuineness. It is noted that this warning was made by Israeli psychiatrists themselves.

Moreover, once they become obsessed with it, this bloody spirit will continue to exist within Israeli soldiers in their ordinary life and even after their disbandment. They will then be a danger to Israeli society itself as was the case with the U.S. soldiers who fought in Vietnam and who spread terror and crime in their country after they returned home deformed by a guilt complex and suffering from incurable psychological diseases.

In contrast, large-scale beatings of innocent young people, particularly children, will transform these people into a future army of real strugglers fueled by hatred and bent on revenge. Until this takes place, regrettably, as an unfortunate outcome of Israel's unbridled violence, the repressive measures of breaking arms and hands will be useless because the one whose right hand is broken will throw stones with the left.

Threat From Settlers Increases

JN121306 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
10 Feb 88 p 7

[Editorial: "This Dangerous Game"]

[Text] All of the observed facts in the occupied territories indicate that the Jewish settlers now constitute an army that assists the occupation authorities in acts of repression that they relentlessly and futilely carry out against Palestinians. The threat these settlers pose to native Palestinian citizens has increased, not to mention their provocations against these citizens and their many confrontations with them. All of this has made them emerge as a subsidiary force on which the occupation authorities depend to carry out some of their dirty missions. One cannot but wonder whether the occupation authorities are actually supporting these new Israeli militias.

The growth of this force and the opportunities given to it to attack the Palestinian resistance movement arouse suspicion when viewed against the backdrop of the development of this force. A few years ago, relative calm prevailed in the occupied territories with the exception of isolated or individual incidents. At the time, Israeli settlers were only allowed to carry personal weapons to defend themselves in cases of dire necessity. Later, the occupation authorities began to gradually give in when faced by extremist groups led by Kahane and his like. These groups began nurturing sentiments of hatred against Arab inhabitants under the sight and earshot of Israeli authorities. They also began inciting the Israelis to openly provoke the Palestinians and attack their properties, holy places, and assembly points. It seems Israeli authorities have resorted to a perilous game, that of settlers terrorizing Palestinians. This would, in effect, allow them to shirk part of the responsibility they may be forced to assume in case confrontations occur between Israeli occupation forces and the peaceful Palestinians.

As expected, things developed and clashes occured between the two sides. But instead of decisively intervening to pacify the situation and put an end to the settlers provocations, the Israeli authorities poured fuel on the fire when they allowed the settlers to arm themselves collectively under the pretext of the need to protect them against Palestinian unruliness. Acts of disturbances, aggression, and confrontations increased until the Palestinian people's popular uprising took place in protest of this dual oppression and these barbaric measures. Then came the recent attack by the settlers against Hebron during which they destroyed Arab properties, not to mention the attacks against the Arabs in villages with a dense Jewish population. The unarmed Palestinians thus found themselves caught between two fires, the fire of the oppressive Zionist authorities with all their military might and the fire of the Jewish settlers with all of their brutality, weapons, and despicable rancorous actions. They then speak of Palestinian terrorism!

Libya

French Claims on Libyans in Darfur Refuted

LD151334 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1150 GMT
15 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Feb (JANA)—A source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has made the following statement in reply to French Cooperation Minister Michel Aurillac's statement on Chad:

First, we reject the statement's remarks with regard to the existence of forces in the Darfur Province carrying out attacks on Chad's eastern border areas.

It is clear now that the agent Habre's repeated lies have been inspired by France and that the French official's statements are merely a way of allocating roles within the framework of the policy of misleading and distorting facts between Ndjamena and Paris.

Second, France has appointed itself a party to a problem which does not concern it; it primarily concerns the OAU. The Great Jamahiriyah has previously warned against methods of instigation and intervention used by the French official on more than one occasion.

Third, the irrefutable fact is that France has been using double language in its dealings with the Chadian problem. It instigates war, works for it, and gives its forces of colonialism in Chad the right to cover up any military moves from anywhere in Chad, from the Sudanese borders to the Libyan borders. At the same time, it tries to cover up the aggressive nature of its forces in Chad and puts the responsibilities upon the shoulders of others. This language, at the very least, is a language void of all values of correct dealing.

Fourth, France has accustomed Africa to only one type of thing: military interventions, scheming plots, the plundering of economic resources, and the spoiling and marring of the African peoples' history and culture—matters which France cannot deny, because the African people are paying for them with their sweat and blood.

Messages Call for Meeting of PLO Factions

LD131242 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1135 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 13 (TANJUG)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has sent secret messages to leaders of all Palestinian factions, calling them to hold an urgent meeting in Tripoli to, as stated in the messages, lay the "foundations to new unity" in the Palestinian ranks.

This was learned by TANJUG from highly-placed sources familiar with Al-Qadhdhafi's latest initiative. The sources said that the Palestinian meeting would start already on Monday, February 15, and that the invitation was sent to both Palestinian radical leaders and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. It was agreed, however, that 'Arafat would be represented at the meeting by his second-in-command, military leader Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), and by head of the Political Department Faruq Qaddumi (Abu al-Lutf), who would be visiting Libya for the first time after relations between Al-Qadhdhafi and 'Arafat were severed.

As learned, Abu Jihad and Abu al-Lutf said they would arrive on Monday.

However, the Libyan leader's latest initiative has one highly delicate side: Sources say that his invitation stated that the debate on "new unity" in the Palestinian ranks would be based on the idea of the expulsion of 'Arafat as leader of the Palestinian revolution and the PLO Executive Committee.

This shows that the gap between 'Arafat, who supports the line of political settlement of the crisis and an international conference on the Middle East, and Al-Qadhdhafi who considers this as a betrayal of the Palestinian and the Arab cause, has become insurmountable.

Sources acquainted with Al-Qadhdhafi's idea say that Abu Jihad (Khalil al-Wazir) is a compromise candidate for new PLO leader.

It is impossible to predict at the moment who will accept the call.

Burial Alive 'Surpassed' Crimes of Nazism

LD160832 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Feb (JANA)—Regarding the crime of burying Arabs alive in occupied Palestine, a source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has made the following statement:

The burying of four Palestinians alive at Salim village in the Nablus region by the soldiers of the Zionist enemy stresses to the whole world that the Zionist entity, thrust into the heart of the Arab world, has by its crimes surpassed those committed by Nazism against humanity.

The Zionist entity shoulders the responsibility of these terrorist crimes with all those who stand behind the Zionist military institution and support it, headed by the United States, whose informational, economic, political, and military support enable the Zionist terrorists to commit crimes of extermination against the sons of the Palestinian people.

This terrorist criminal act emphasizes the statement by the brother leader of the Great al-Fatih Revolution on 8 February at Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf in Tunisia, that the Arabs have no escape from unity and confrontation or ruination.

The armed struggle is the only to way to liberate Palestine and defend the Arab existence, and there is no refuge for those who are hankering after submissive solutions following the burying of Arabs alive.

It is high time that the international conscience wake up and put an end to the crimes committed against mankind, because one cannot believe that people could be buried alive at the end of the 20th century.

'Secret Organization' Still at Large

NC150813 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Citing informed security sources in Libya, the AL-AHRAM newspaper reports today that investigations by Libyan security services have so far failed to uncover the secret organization that set fire to the popular market in Wadi al-Qattarah in January. They have also failed to pinpoint the source of the leaflets found at the scene. Citing these sources, AL-AHRAM said that other similar incidents have occurred in several places in Libya in the past 2 years, which indicate that there is a highly-organized clandestine group, not yet identified, carrying out these operations. The sources maintain that the recent large-scale arrest campaign by Libyan authorities against certain officers in the Libyan Armed Forces may be linked to this or other unpublicized incidents.

DPRK External Economic Affairs Minister Visits

LD131823 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Chong Song-nam, DPRK minister of external economic affairs, arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA, the Korean minister stressed the depth of friendship and cooperation between the Libyan Arab and Korean peoples, who stand in one trench against imperialism. He explained that his visit will be an opportunity to develop the existing cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Democratic Korea. He added that the visit will enable us to examine the great successes achieved by the Libyan Arab people in various fields to build a new society as a result of the Great September Revolution.

Afghan Foreign Minister Departs 13 Feb

LD131845 Tripoli JANA in English 1748 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—'Abdul Wakil, the member of the Politbureau of the Afghani People's Democratic Party and the foreign minister of Afghanistan, this afternoon left Tripoli after a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

Jabir Receives PFLP, Sudanese Delegations

LD141515 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, today received a PFLP delegation led by Brother Abu Mahir al-Yamani, which includes Brothers Abu Nidal al-Muslimi and Taysir Qub'ah.

Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir also received today a delegation of the Socialist Union Party of brotherly Sudan, which includes Dr Nasir al-Sayyid and Brother Majdi Salim 'Abdallah.

Briefs

Cloud Seeding Reported

Tripoli, 15 Feb (JANA)—Yesterday evening, aircraft used for seeding clouds to make artificial rain conducted extensive and successful cloud seeding operations in the Al-Jaffarah plain region. This brought large amounts of rainfall to the area. [Text] [*Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Feb 88 LD*]

Morocco

King Hassan Meets U.S. Congressional Delegation

LD130322 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have just received news that this evening at the Royal Palace in Marrakesh, His Majesty King Hasan II received the U.S. Congressional delegation headed by Mr Tony Coelho and held a working session with them. The session was attended by Mr Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and U.S. Ambassador to Rabat Mr Thomas Nassif.

King Hassan Receives Saudi Crown Prince 12 Feb

LD131256 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Marrakech, 13 Feb (MAP)—Last night at the Royal Palace in Marrakesh, his majesty King Hassan II received his royal highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard. [passage omitted]

Saudi Crown Prince Departs

LD131424 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Late this morning his royal highness Corwn Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi first deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, left Menara Marrakesh airport. He was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Moulay Rachid [Hassan], Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki, Royal Advisor Mohamed Aouad, Governor of Marrakesh Province Dr Mohamed Belmahi, the Saudi ambassador in Rabat, and a number of other personalities. [passage omitted]

French Minister Signs Agreements, Meets King

LD131411 Rabat MAP in English 1242 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Rabat, Feb 13 (MAP)—Morocco and France Friday concluded a protocol of agreement providing for the consolidation of bilateral cooperation in the sector of vocational training.

The agreement, initialled by visiting French Minister of Social Affairs and Employment Philippe Seguin and Moroccan Minister of Equipment, Staff and Vocational Training Mohamed Kabbaj, provides for modernizing vocational training structures in Morocco and the training of trainers to enable them acquire the technical and pedagogical competences necessary for teaching advanced technology courses.

Seguin equally concluded with Moroccan Minister of Employment Hassan Abbadi an additional clause to the protocol on adults' vocational training annexed to the 1963 convention on labor force.

Under this agreement, France will contribute to the elaboration of technical training programs and will train Moroccans in the French adults' vocational training centers.

The French minister and the Moroccan minister of public health on the other hand co-chaired the signing ceremony of the minutes of the meetings held by the joint commission for social welfare.

The commission had examined modalities of modifying the family allowances for Moroccan workers in France to the benefit of their families in Morocco.

The commission also discussed other issues interesting the Moroccan and French communities established in both countries.

The French minister who is visiting Morocco since Thursday was received Friday evening in Marrakech by King Hassan II. He had earlier conferred in Rabat with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali, Minister of Handicrafts and Social Affairs Mohamed Labiedh as well as with Speaker of the House of Representatives Ahmed Osman.

At a press conference he held Friday in Rabat, Seguin said France understands Morocco's concerns with regard to its relations with the enlarged European community and endeavours to settle the problems caused by the adhesion of Spain and Portugal to the EEC.

The French minister hailed the exemplary conduct of the Moroccan workers living in France and said the emigrant workers can by no means be considered as the scape goat of the economic crisis.

He said a firm attitude must however be adopted to combat clandestine emigration and therefore protect those who are in a regular situation.

Moroccan-French discussions on vocational training will be carried on, Seguin said pointing out that the possibility to make Morocco profit from the French expertise in the area of information will be explored.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With USSR

LD121546 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Morocco and the Soviet Union today signed an agreement on the executory program for 1988-89 in the domains of education, vocational training, and cultural and information affairs, within the cultural protocol signed between the two countries.

The agreement was signed for Morocco by the director of cooperation at the Foreign and Cooperation Ministry, Abdellatif Filali, and for the USSR by the Soviet ambassador in Rabat.

On this occasion, the two sides stressed the role of the agreement in strengthening bilateral relations of cooperation and their desire to secure a policy of rapprochement and coexistence under the care of his majesty King Hassan II and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. They also voiced the desire to work for the implementation of all the agreement's provisions so that, in the next few years, the two countries can move into the stage of overall cooperation.

Romania Signs 1988-92 Trade Exchange Protocol

LD151333 Rabat MAP in English 1227 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Rabat, Feb 25 (MAP)—Morocco and Romania have signed a protocol on trade exchanges for the 1988-92 period, Moroccan Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdallah Azmani said.

Upon arrival Saturday in Morocco at the end of a few day visit to Romania, Abdallah Azmani added he had had, during the visit, meetings with Romanian officials from the Departments of Finance, Handicraft, Industry, Equipment and Vocational Training. The meetings examined means of consolidating cooperation links between the two countries in various areas, he added.

Sudan

Israeli Planes Reportedly Violate Airspace

JN161032 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb 16 (SUNA)—Israeli jets have several times violated the Sudanese airspace south of the Red Sea near the area harbouring Palestinian camps in the eastern region, the daily AL-AYYAM quoted security reports as saying.

The paper said the reports have pointed that the Israeli jets flying on high altitude were apparently on reconnaissance flight within the context of the Israeli military moves aimed at locating Palestinian camps in the Sudan.

The security reports quoted by the AL-AYYAM said the Israeli planes were equipped with sophisticated electronic devices for that purposes. [passage indistinct]

The paper coordination between the PLO representative to Sudan and the Sudanese Government on the steps to be adopted vis-a-vis the situation. [sentence as received]

It is understood that Palestinian fighters, who left Lebanon following the 1982 Beirut crisis, were hosted in Sudan.

Lebanon's Al-Jumayyil Arrives in Khartoum

JN141852 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 14 (SUNA)—Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived here Sunday for a two-day visit to the Sudan during which he will meet with chairmen of the Council of the head of state and ministers respectively Sayyid Ahmad al-Mirghani and Sayyid al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and leader of the Democratic Unionist Party Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani.

The Lebanese guest was greeted at the airport by president and members of the council of the head of state. In a statement upon arrival President al-Jumayyil expressed his satisfaction to visit the Sudan and to meet with the president of the council of state with view to discussing means of consolidating bilateral relations in all fields.

As for the Lebanese crisis President al-Jumayyil said foreign interventions were behind complications of the crisis expressing hopes that the Arab brothers will contribute in bringing about a solution to this issue.

Talks With Al-Mirghani

JN151132 Khartoum SUNA in English 1005 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 15 SUNA—Chairman of the Council of State Ahmad al-Mirghani and members of the Council received here Sunday night the visiting Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil currently on a visit to Sudan.

The encounter has reviewed bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

During the meeting, Al-Mirghani conferred on the Lebanese president Sudan's highest honour the Insignia of Honour in recognition to his country's role in bridging the rift in Arab ranks and appreciation of the friendly Lebanese-Sudanese relations.

Following the talk, Al-Mirghani and the members of the Council gave a supper banquet in the honour of Al-Jumayyil.

Al-Jumayyil who arrived here Sunday after noon in a two day visit to here is scheduled to have talks today with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party "DUP" Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani.

The Lebanese president will hold his departure Monday after noon to explain the outcome of his talks with the Sudanese officials. [sentence as received]

Authorities Arrest Lebanese at Khartoum Airport

JN151121 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Feb (SUNA)—The Sudanese security authorities at Khartoum airport arrested a Lebanese on 13 February and interrogated him on the reasons for his visit to Sudan.

The newspaper AL-SUDANI, which published the news item in its issue today, said that the Lebanese told the interrogators that his visit is normal and that it ends on 17 February. However, he failed to give any details about the nature of his job. The newspaper added that the security authorities referred the investigations to the Passport Section to help identify the person.

It is worth noting that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Khartoum yesterday on a 2-day visit amidst stringent security measures.

Taj al-Din Views Chad, Situation in South

JN141156 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 11 Feb 88 p 19

[Interview with State Council member Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din by correspondent Yusuf al-Khatir; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Khatir] You are mediating to settle the Libyan-Chadian conflict. You recently visited Paris, and a Chadian envoy arrived in Khartoum last week. How far have the mediation efforts reached?

[Taj al-Din] The Libyan-Chadian conflict is a painful one. Sudan supports a peaceful solution to this issue on the basis that the regional conflicts and disputes among brothers and neighbors will only bring about destruction. We exerted strenuous efforts and undertook shuttle trips between the two sides. The conflict now revolves only around the Aozou Strip. The settlement of this conflict is in the hands of the wise men of Africa and the OAU. An arbitration committee made up of five presidents, and chaired by the Gabonese president, is currently studying the issue. As Libya and Chad are both members of the OAU, we hope that the conflict will be settled within its framework so that peace and stability may prevail in the

two countries. Sudan will abide by the OAU's decision in this respect as the security and stability in Libya and Chad are part of the security and stability of Sudan, which is a neutral party in this conflict. [passage omitted]

[Al-Khatir] Which parties really support John Garang's movements in southern Sudan, and how can a final solution to the issue be reached, particularly following the occupation of Kapoeta?

[Taj al-Din] Several foreign parties support Garang's movement, and Ethiopia supports Garang's forces with weapons and funds. The Council of Churches in Europe also morally and materially supports John Garang's forces. Ethiopia and the Council of Churches both seek to depict the conflict as a racial one, a conflict between Arabs and Africans. This is not true. They also try to depict it as a religious conflict between Muslims and Christians. This is also not true. [passage omitted]

[Al-Khatir] How true are the reports that Israeli experts have visited the southern areas controlled by John Garang's forces?

[Taj al-Din] We cannot deny that Israeli experts have visited the areas under the control of John Garang's forces. This is in view of the relations that exist between John Garang's forces and the Zionist entity, particularly the visit by a delegation from the Garang movement to the Zionist entity. [passage omitted]

IMF Calls For Organized Economic Program

JN141044 Khartoum SUNA in English 1022 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb. 14 (SUNA)—The mission of the International Monetary Fund "IMF" in its talks with the Sudanese Government has called for reduction of indebtness from the bank system and scheduling the implementation of the four-year economic recovery program so as to expose it before the consultative group which will meet in Paris next May.

The aim of this policy is to polarize the financing of the program's projects.

An official source at the Ministry of Finance said that the week-long talks had discussed the filling of the deficit in the balance of payments of last fiscal year.

They also reviewed the government's strategy to tackle the indebtness issue.

Finance Minister and leader of the Sudanese side Dr Bashir 'Umar described the talks as "positive"

Ethiopia Rejects Mediation on Talks Venue

JN150952 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb 15 (SUNA)—Ethiopia has officially announced its refusal to any mediation between it and Sudan regarding place of the meetings of the joint ministerial committee which is due to discuss problems and differences between the two countries, the Sudanese minister of Culture and Information Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm said here Monday.

The Arabic AL-ITTIHAD quoted the minister as saying that contacts between the two countries are underway to solve this problem. He added that each side wants the meetings to be held in its capital.

USSR Mediation Efforts Noted

JN161206 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Feb (SUNA)—Quoting diplomatic reports, the newspaper AL-AYYAM today said that the USSR is currently exerting efforts to convince the Ethiopian Government to improve its relations with Sudan and to settle problems between the two countries through negotiations without resorting to everything that disrupts peace in the region.

The reports quoted by the paper stressed that reports from some Arab and African capitals say that the USSR is urging the Ethiopian Government to hold a meeting of the Sudanese-Ethiopian Joint Committee as soon as possible to reach an agreement that would settle differences between the two countries.

It is worth noting that Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met with the Soviet ambassador in Khartoum last Saturday, and that their talks dealt with Sudan's relations with the USSR.

Khartoum University Scheduled To Reopen 27 Feb

JN151653 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Feb (SUNA)—During its meeting here yesterday, the Khartoum University Council agreed to reopen the university on 27 February. A responsible source at the university said stringent measures will be taken concerning entry into the university campus and that only those carrying identity cards will be allowed on the campus. The university was closed last November following differences between the students and management over compliance with certain university regulations.

Al-Ummah, DUP Agree To Continue Coalition

JN141200 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb. 14 (SUNA)—A high level committee from the two ruling parties Al-Ummah and Democratic Unionist yesterday reached an agreement under which the two big parties will continue their coalition.

The daily newspaper AL-AYYAM today said that after 48 hours of secret and intensive negotiations the committee reached a comprehensive agreement according to which the two parties solved all issues of differences between them.

Closed sources said that the agreement included the solutions of issues of head of State Supreme Council, the national security organ, dividing the portfolios between the two parties, the southern problem and the non-aligned foreign policy.

Rebel Siege of Bor Broken; 110 Reported Killed

JN151035 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 15 SUNA—The Sudanese Armed Forces have succeeded last Saturday to break siege around the Upper Nile region's town of Bor after sweeping out the rebels troops on the way to the town, an Army forces source stated here Sunday.

The source said the Army has inflicted heavy casualties among the rebels and managed to clear the area and crush the rebels troops around the town.

He added that the Army contacted its troops inside Bor and provided them with required supplies.

The source pointed out that the Army unit which carried out the operation was assigned before three weeks to open the way and clear the area adding that it had removed several rebels ambushes and destroyed a number of their camps in the area.

He said 110 rebels troops were killed during the operation; 50 of them were killed in the area between Mongalla and Al-Jummayzah towns, 30 in Furyak and 30 others in Al-Zurzur forest area.

Eight Army men including an officer, Captain 'Arif Muhammad Taha, were killed during the operations since the advance of the Army unit from Juba to Bor, the source said.

Al-Tawm on Relief Supplies, Kapoeta Liberation

JN151213 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1039 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Feb (SUNA)—In a statement reported by the independent newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, which was published here this morning, Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm, minister of state for culture and information and the government's official spokesman, said that the government had issued unequivocal directives to the Armed Forces stationed in southern Sudan asking them not to attack or disrupt the operations of relief trucks and to return the relief items that have been confiscated. The official spokesman said that he cannot confirm the reports received regarding the liberation of Kapoeta. However, he added that the military and security situation in southern Sudan is under the full control of the Armed Forces.

Al-Banna Urges Kordofan Citizens To Face Rebels

JN131900 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Al-Ubayyid, Sudan, 13 Feb (SUNA)—State Council member Idris al-Banna has urged the Kordofan citizens to obstruct the rebel movement's way and foil its schemes. He asserted that the government will confront anyone who tries to establish power centers or disturb security and stability by exploiting Islamic or Christian religious affairs.

In a speech in the town of Al-Muglad today, Al-Banna, who is currently visiting the Kordofan Region, said the areas of Al-Muglad and the southern Kordofan in general are the southern gate of northern Sudan and that the government will not allow the rebel movement to disturb security and stability in the area. He stressed the need for the Dinka and Al-Masiriyah [tribes] in the southern Kordofan area to reach an understanding on repulsing the rebel movement and on spreading security and stability by supporting the Armed Forces and approving ways for peaceful coexistence.

Al-Banna chaired an expanded meeting in Al-Muglad today. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Al-Masiriyah and Dinka tribes. He discussed with them the security situation in the region and ways to end disputes between the two tribes.

Military Affirms Cooperation With Anya Nya II

JN151735 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Feb (SUNA)—The official spokesman for the Armed Forces has affirmed that cooperation between the Armed Forces and Anya Nya II is increasing, and that both of them are confronting the homeland's enemies, rebels, and outlaws. In a statement here today, the spokesman said the visit to the city of Malakal yesterday by Lieutenant General Faisal Mansur, deputy chief of staff for operations, included meetings with friendly Anya Nya II leaders to discuss ways to promote cooperation. He also explained that those who were recently evacuated from a hotel included three people loyal to dissident military commander Gordon Kong Choul. Anya Nya II has announced that it no longer has any connection with these people.

It is noteworthy that local press information today said that the Armed Forces had withdrawn its support for Anya Nya II and ended its cooperation with it.

SPLA Claims 20 Government Troops Killed 4 Feb

EA151558 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Combined SPLA forces from Tafeng, Zalzal, and Tingili Battalions under the overall command of Alternate Commander Gilario Modi Horinyang raided the enemy troop position between Torit and Loronyo on 4th February 1988.

A correspondent for Radio SPLA in Torit says that 20 enemy soldiers were killed and several others were wounded. The enemy also suffered extensive damages on military equipment. A number of houses, including stores, were gutted down in the enemy's post. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Border With Libya Opened 15 February

LD151656 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] The border between Tunisia and Libya was opened today in a refreshing atmosphere. Our correspondent in Medenine reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] Following the agreement signed between the Tunisian Republic and the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and following the visit paid by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, to Tunisia on 4 and 5 February and his meeting with President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali, the Tunisian-Libyan border was opened this morning to citizens of both countries. The conditions required of Tunisian tourists were confined to the transferring of 200 dinars in foreign currency. At a meeting with a Tunisian citizen getting ready to cross the Tunisian-Libyan border, he expressed his deep satisfaction with the new era and the resumption of brotherly bilateral relations between the two countries.

'Full' Working Session With Libya Reported

PM151446 Tunis L'ACTION in French 6 Feb 88 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Tunisian-Libyan Working Session"]

[Text] A full Tunisian-Libyan working session took place at the Casbah government palace yesterday evening.

This working session was chaired on the Tunisian side by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and on the Libyan side by Major Khuwayldi al-Humaydi.

In a speech delivered on this occasion, Mr Baccouche expressed President Ben Ali's desire to consolidate Tunisia's Arab-Islamic identity and to strengthen its relations with the other Maghreb and Arab countries, stressing the 7 November leadership's faith in the urgent need to strengthen the ties of fraternity among Arab peoples and to improve the climate of inter-Arab relations.

In this connection, he referred to the deep affinities uniting the Tunisian and Libyan people, affinities which have their roots in history, the common struggle, and geographical proximity.

Mr Baccouche noted that the meeting between Zine El Abedine Ben Ali and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi confirmed the two countries' joint desire to build the future on the basis of fraternity and mutual confidence in the two fraternal countries' interests, to promote the Arab nation's invulnerability, and to strengthen its potential.

The prime minister added that the joint political will is likely to smooth out all obstacles and clear the way for putting this desire into practice, implementing joint projects, fulfilling aspirations of solidarity and complementarity, and building the Maghreb entity as a decisive step toward the Arab world's unity.

Finally, Hedi Baccouche expressed the hope that Col al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Tunisia heralds active cooperation based on strong foundations free from mistakes.

Maj Khuwayldi al-Humaydi, for his part, reaffirmed the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's support for the 7 November turning point and its support for and solidarity with the young Tunisian leadership, headed by President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali.

"We want Tunisia to be successful and stable," Maj Khuwayldi al-Humaydi said, noting there are now extensive opportunities for cooperation between the two countries.

In this connection, he emphasized the Libyan leadership's concern toward putting bilateral relations on new foundations and on a practical footing based on mutual confidence.

The Libyan official also stressed the important role which Tunisia has played since 7 November in the Maghreb, Arab, and international spheres. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives on Official Visit

LD141102 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1037 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Feb (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Kuwait on an official visit to the country at noon today. He was received by Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Khalid Ahmad al-Jasar and a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials.

'Arafat stated to KUNA that his visit takes place in the shadow of the current circumstances facing the Palestinian and Arab nations, as represented by the Palestinian people's uprising inside the occupied territories against the fascist Israeli occupation.

He said: I find it very important to discuss all these circumstances with my brothers in the Arab countries. I am here to meet with his highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir, who currently chairs the ICO and who is committed to pushing forward the Palestinian march until the Palestinian people achieve their firm national goals, including the establishment of an independent state.

'Arafat said the ship of return will sail within 36 hours. [sentence as received]

Received by Amir

LD161032 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0944 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Feb (KUNA)—Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, received here today Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who is currently on a visit to the country. Mr 'Arafat met yesterday with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

'Arafat arrived in Kuwait the evening of last Sunday. Today he will hold a news conference in which he will talk about the developments of the Palestinian issue, the uprising of the Palestinian people, and other issues.

Envoy Interviewed on U.S. Presence in Gulf

LD130936 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 13 Feb (KUNA)—In a press interview published here today, Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Washington, stressed that Kuwait can defend itself from any danger that threatens it and that it has not asked any country to defend it.

In an interview with AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, Shaykh Sa'ud said that Kuwait relies primarily on self-defense and secondly on the GCC friendly countries, which are Arab states. He pointed out that the presence of the U.S. Navy in the Gulf was not at the request of Kuwait, who has not asked in any way whatsoever for U.S. forces in the region. He said that Kuwait only asked for the U.S. registration of ships and that the sending of U.S. naval forces to the region was a U.S. decision and not at Kuwait's request.

Commenting on Kuwait's arms policy, the Kuwaiti ambassador noted that Kuwait cooperates with numerous countries for the consolidation of its air, sea, and land defenses. He stressed that Kuwait "is free to choose whatever it likes with respect to arms and defenses to preserve its security and stability and there are no restrictions on Kuwait's freedom of movement."

In his interview with AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, Shaykh Sa'ud expressed his hope that the UN Security Council would be able to bring a quick end to the Iraq-Iran war, which has begun its 8th year. The Kuwaiti ambassador stressed that Kuwait has never taken sides in the Iraq-Iran conflict. He pointed out that "we are playing the role of a mediator between Iraq and Iran and we have never taken sides with one Islamic country against another."

Shaykh Sa'ud appealed to Iran to stop its threats to and provocations against Kuwait and to accept the international resolutions urging it to stop its war with Iraq.

20 Reportedly Expelled After 8 Feb Protests

NC142150 Paris AFP in English 2142 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut, Feb 14 (AFP)—Several dozen people were injured in Kuwait last Monday in clashes between club-wielding security forces and pro-Palestinian demonstrators, the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) said Sunday.

In a statement released in Beirut, the FRC charged that security forces belonging to unspecified security services used tear gas and clubs to break up a demonstration of nearly 1,000 people who were marching to a rally of solidarity with a Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories. The rally was being held at Kuwait University, the statement said. It said that clashes broke out and that "several dozen people, most of them women, were injured and some are still hospitalised."

The FRC claimed that the three Arabs were expelled from Kuwait Thursday and 17 others, most of them Palestinians, on Friday in the wake of the clashes. The FRC said the Kuwaiti press did not report the incident.

The FRC, which is led by Abu Nidal, urged Kuwait ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to intervene.

PDRY

Soviet Energy Delegation Arrives in Aden

EA121554 Aden ANA in Arabic 1150 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Comrade (Papurskiy), the all-union deputy minister of power and electrification, arrived in Aden yesterday evening, Thursday, for a visit to our country which will last several days. In a statement to ANA on arrival, Comrade (Papurskiy) said that the aim of his visit is to discuss the international development of energy in Democratic Yemen and to establish strategic cooperation between the two friendly countries in energy. During their visit to our country, the members of this delegation will visit Hadramawt Governorate to acquaint themselves with energy projects.

The delegation was received at the airport by Comrade Mahmud Tarmum, deputy minister of energy and minerals; the Soviet ambassador in Aden; and the economic counselor at the Soviet Embassy.

Saudi Arabia

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Arrives in Riyadh 13 Feb

LD131129 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1109 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Riyadh, 13 Feb (SPA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali Khalifah al-Sabah arrived in Riyadh today. He was welcomed by His Excellency Hisham Nazir, Saudi minister of oil and mineral resources and acting planning minister, the Ministry's under secretary, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Turki, and a number of officials.

Departs After Talks

LD131620 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1527 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 13 Feb (SPA)—Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting planning minister, held a meeting this afternoon with Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali Khalifah al-Sabah, who arrived in Riyadh earlier today.

In a private meeting, they discussed aspects of cooperation between the Kingdom and Kuwait in the domain of oil. They also exchanged views and coordinated stances on the subject in respect of the world oil market. Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah left Riyadh this evening. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Returns From Visit to Pakistan

JN132100 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2035 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, returned to Abu Dhabi from Lahore this evening following a private visit to Pakistan. During the visit, his highness held talks with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo on bilateral relations and a number of current issues, especially the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the occupied territories.

Yemen Arab Republic

Reportage on Visit by Lebanon's Al-Jumayyil

Arrives in Sanaa 13 Feb

JN131752 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Excerpts] At 1330 today, his excellency Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Sanaa on a visit to our country at the invitation of Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. President Salih led the welcoming party at the airport. [Passage omitted]

The Lebanese president told SABA' that he is glad to be visiting the YAR, where the Lebanese community is being well looked after. He emphasized that longstanding relations bind Lebanon and the YAR.

Al-Jumayyil noted that the YAR has made strides in construction and development, citing dams and public utilities. He said that President Salih is to be congratulated on these achievements.

For his part, President Salih stated that on behalf of the Yemeni people he is glad to welcome President al-Jumayyil. He said the YAR fully supports the unity of the Lebanese people and the country's territorial integrity. The president stressed that a solution of the Lebanese problem is up to the Lebanese themselves and that Arabs can only help them toward that end. He said it is distressing to see Lebanon's unity tampered with.

Holds Talks With Salih

JN132048 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Excerpt] His excellency Lebanese President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, who is currently visiting our country, met with Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, in his office today. The two presidents held a

session of talks during which they discussed a number of Arab and international issues, particularly those in the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas in light of the all-encompassing Palestinian uprising in occupied Palestine. The two presidents also discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to promote them in the interests of the two fraternal peoples and the Arab nation.

Al-Jumayyil acquainted President Salih with recent developments in Lebanon. He stressed his concern about supporting Arab efforts to achieve peace and stability in Lebanon and to support its national unity and Arabism. He expressed appreciation for our country's stands under President Salih and its support for the Lebanese people and all efforts to achieve peace in Lebanon, proceeding from the firm pan-Arab stands of the YAR.

During the meeting, Brother President Salih stressed our country's concern with supporting Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity. He stressed the importance of understanding among all Lebanese leaderships to achieve national accord, which will save Lebanon from its ordeal and achieve stability and peace, enabling it to play its pan-Arab role in serving the Arab nation's cause and to confront all plots aimed at fragmenting Lebanon's unity and obliterating its Arab identity. [passage omitted]

Departs 14 Feb

JN141807 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Excerpts] His excellency Lebanese President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil of the fraternal Republic of Lebanon left Sanaa International Airport at 1600 today following a 2-day visit to our country. During the visit, he held fraternal talks with Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. The talks dealt with a number of Arab and international issues led by the current situation in the Lebanese arena, the Palestine question, and issues of mutual interest. His excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil was accorded an official sendoff. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih led those who saw him off. [passage omitted]

Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih made a statement to the Lebanese news media. He said: Our talks dealt with the Arab situation in general and the Lebanese situation in particular. Views were identical on the issues discussed. Asked about the role our country played to solve Arab differences during the Amman summit and whether our country plays a similar role to solve the Lebanese issue, the brother president leader said: The role we played at the Amman summit was similar to the efforts exerted by the Arab leaders. This role is a pan-Arab duty we should carry out in this direction to reconcile disputing parties. Results were very positive and we emerged from the Amman summit with results better than those attained at previous Arab summits. As far as the Lebanese arena is concerned, if we are asked to carry out a pan-Arab duty then we will not spare such a duty so that Lebanon may restore its unity, freedom, sovereignty, and independence. We are completely ready if we are asked to do so.

At the end of his visit, Lebanese President Amin al-Jummayil also made a statement. He asserted that views were identical and that the brother president had expressed the viewpoint of everyone. He said: God willing, we will be able to consolidate various ideas through which we may speed up the salvation march. [passage omitted]

Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and President Amin al-Jumayyil held a closed round of talks at the presidential palace this afternoon. They discussed a number of issues of interest to both fraternal countries and the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Talks Held With Libyan Officials in Sanaa

JN141906 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] A round of talks was held between our country and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah at the Central Organ of Planning [COP] today. Our country's side was led by Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, head of the COP, and Standing Committee member, while the Libyan side was led by Dr Muhammad Lutfi Farhat, secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr al-'Attar welcomed the head and members of the Libyan side and reviewed the COP's tasks, activities, and role in drawing up development plans in cooperation with other state bodies. He also reviewed the practical planning methods our country employs in its comprehensive development policy. He voiced confidence that this meeting would yield the aspired positive results to serve the interest of the fraternal Yemeni and Libyan peoples.

For his part, Dr Muhammad Lutfi Farhat voiced his thanks and appreciation for the hospitality accorded to him and his accompanying delegation in our country. He presented a briefing on the work and tasks of the General People's Committee for Planning in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, as well as the planning methods it employs to attain comprehensive development. Dr Farhat stressed the importance of exchanging experience between the two fraternal countries in the planning field.

Afterwards, the two sides discussed coordinating the work of joint executive committees within the context of what was agreed at the meetng of the Yemeni-Libyan joint committee.

The meeting was attended by Brothers Muhsin al-Hamdani, COP under secretary; 'Abd al-Waliyy al-'Aqil, COP assistant under secretary; directors of the COP's competent departments; and a Foreign Ministry delegate. Members of the accompaying Libyan delegation and 'Ali al-Salih al-Ghufur, official in charge of the Libyan Brotherhood Office in Sanaa, also attended the meeting.

Al-'Iryani Receives Official

JN151321 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member, today received Brother Dr Muhammad Lutfi Farhat, secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning in Libya. They discussed bilateral ties and cooperation. The meeting was attended by the Libyan charge d'affairs in Sanaa.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,019

JN121745 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,019 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continue to destroy the pillars of aggression and confront its remnants, inflicting further losses on the Khomeyniite enemies of our country. Following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force dealt an accurate and effective blow to a very large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 2305 [2005 GMT] yesterday. Today the rapacious hawks carried out 65 combat missions against enemy units, weapon emplacements, and equipment in the operational sectors, inflicting important losses on the enemy. After carrying out these duties, all our planes returned safely to base in God's care.

2. Our bold helicopter gunships launched a successful raid on three enemy boats which tried to approach Al-'Amiq Port. Two enemy boats were destroyed and sunk, along with the scoundrels on board, at 1645 yesterday. The third boat fled. Today, the courageous knights flew 50 combat missions, inflicting on the aggressors new losses in scoundrels, equipment, and vehicles. The knights then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Five enemy personnel were killed, five infantry positions and one observation post were destroyed, and two vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. In the II Army Corps central sector, two enemy soldiers were killed and four infantry positions, one observation post, and one single-barreled machinegun were destroyed.

5. Two ammunition dumps were blown up and one heavy machinegun was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. One scoundrel was killed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

7. In the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris, six infantry positions and two machineguns were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up.

8. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector killed 11 enemy soldiers, set ablaze and destroyed 4 vehicles, damaged 1 shovel [preceding word in English], and blew up an ammunition dump.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 February 1988

Communique No 3,020

JN121828 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1705 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,020 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. It is no longer a secret for our great Iraqi people, for our glorious Arab nation, and for world public opinion that there is strong cooperation between the criminal Zionist entity and world Zionism on the one hand and the suspect Iranian rulers who insist on war on the other. The essence of this cooperation is based on the fact that the Zionist and Iranian regimes converge on the hateful racist concept and on enmity to the Arab nation and its aspirations. These two regimes also have a common desire to undermine the Arab nation's sovereignty and security, attempt to dominate its resources, and foment sedition among its ranks.

Moreover, it is no secret to anyone that this cooperation, in the economic, political, and military fields in particular, has played a role in perpetuating the war and prompting the Iranian regime to insist on war, ignoring, just like the Zionist enemy, both Security Council resolutions and international will. Since the beginning of the Khomeyniite aggression on Iraq, the Zionist entity, the ally of the agent Tehran regime, has been using various means to jam the air defense equipment and to monitor and convey information to the agent regime in Tehran.

In the latest attempt, yesterday afternoon, Thursday, 11 February 1988, the Zionists launched a guided object from the occupied territory. The object entered Iraqi airspace south of Al-Ma'aniyah in the southern sector, following international air route R-19. Our Air Force defenses lay in wait for it. They monitored its movement and all the data concerning it accurately. Orders were then given to destroy the object. This took place at 1744 [1444 GMT] at an area near the Iraqi-Kuwaiti-Saudi border.

We hold the Zionist entity responsible for using this international civilian air route for aggressive purposes. Air route R-19 is used by international civilian airlines. This indicates the Zionist entity's belittlement of international values, norms, and laws. It also points to the lack of a feeling of responsibility toward the civilian use of air routes. On this occasion, we assert that only the Zionist government will be held responsible for any disasters that might result from this aggressive behavior.

Iraq, which is standing fast behind the banner of its great leader, will continue to proceed on the road of freedom and progress and will not be impeded or affected by the attacks of the agent Iranian regime or by the support this regime receives from its ally, world Zionism, or from its

usurping, occupying entity. Iraq will continue to maintain victory over this suspect alliance, seeking help from God and guided by the wisdom of its great leader, Saddam Husayn. Iraq will also continue to rely on the sacrifices of its people and Armed Forces and on the support of the whole Arab nation and all the honorable and free people in the world.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 February 1988

Planes Hit 'Maritime Target'

JN130622 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 13 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We will continue to deal painful blows to the Zionist regime ruling in Tehran and to implement our legitimate, constant course of depriving this regime of its oil supplies which finance its aggressive war machine. Our noble hawks launched a destructive raid on a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 2108 [1808 GMT] last night. After hitting their target accurately and effectively, our hawks returned safely with their planes to base in God's care and protection.

[Dated] 13 February 1988

2d 'Maritime Target' Attacked

JN130835 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0739 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—Iraqi aircraft attacked a very large maritime target near remote Sirri Island last night and scored an accurate and effective hit. This was announced by a military spokesman for the Armed Forces General Command. He said Iraqi aircraft simultaneously attacked two very large maritime targets near the remote Sirri Island. This took place at 2108 local time, 1808 GMT, last night.

The spokesman added that the raid on the first target was announced earlier this morning.

He affirmed that the Iraqi air raid comes within the framework of dealing painful blows to the Zionist regime ruling in Tehran in implementation of Iraq's legitimate, constant course of depriving this regime of its oil supplies which finance its aggressive war machine.

The spokesman indicated that Iraqi aircraft returned safely to base after hitting the two targets.

Communique No 3,021

JN131806 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,021 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Regardless of attempts by the tyrannical Khomeyniites, victory will remain the lot only of Iraq. And Iraq's large and victorious Armed Forces will remain the ferocious power confronting the covetous invaders. Following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. In continuation of our efforts to deal painful blows to the Zionist Iranian regime ruling in Tehran, and in implementation of our constant and legitimate decision to deprive this regime of its oil supplies which finance its hostile war machine, our noble hawks launched a successful raid on two very large maritime targets near remote Sirri Island at 2108 local time [1808 GMT] last night, scoring two accurate and effective hits. Furthermore, our hawks today flew 55 combat missions against enemy troops in the operational theaters and inflicted further losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment. Afterward, our hawks returned with their planes safely to base, God be praised.

2. Our courageous helicopter gunships flew 37 combat sorties today, during which they inflicted significant losses on the enemy in personnel and equipment. Afterward, our helicopter gunships returned safely to base.

3. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector engaged the enemy troops before them and achieved the following: 20 scoundrels killed; 1 bulldozer and 1 wheeled shovel [preceding word in English] destroyed and 3 other bulldozers damaged; 3 ammunition dumps blown up; and 1 vehicle and 2 infantry positions destroyed.

4. Five enemy personnel were killed and one infantry position and another gun emplacement were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. One tank, one vehicle, and two infantry positions were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. The following losses were inflicted on the enemy in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris: eight infantry positions were destroyed; two enemy personnel were killed; two boats and one hovercraft were burned and destroyed. One bulldozer was destroyed and one vehicle was damaged.

7. Our courageous troops in the VII Army Corps sector destroyed two enemy machineguns, two infantry positions, three observation posts, and two wheeled shovels [preceding word in English]. They also blew up one ammunition dump and killed three scoundrels.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 February 1988

Communique No 3,022

JN141729 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,022 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With great capability and strong determination, our victorious Armed Forces are continuing their heroic confrontation of the Zionist Khomeyniites, inflicting new losses on them every moment. The following are the results of our activities for last night and today:

1. The planes of our heroic Air Force flew 50 combat missions today, inflicting important losses on the aggressors' personnel, weapons, and equipment. Then our planes returned safely to base in God's care.

2. The courageous knights of the air carried out 25 combat missions against the scoundrels' troops and gun emplacements, inflicting additional losses on them. Our knights safely returned to base with their planes, God be praised.

3. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector attacked enemy units opposite them achieving the following: killing seven enemy personnel, destroying five infantry positions, burning and destroying five various vehicles, damaging one bulldozer, and blowing up four ammunition dumps.

4. Seven enemy personnel were killed, one observation post was destroyed, one tank was damaged, and one vehicle was burned and destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Two scoundrels were killed and one infantry position and one SPG-9 gun were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. One enemy Poclain excavator was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. Three enemy personnel were killed and six infantry positions were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

8. One scoundrel was killed, one infantry position and one machinegun were destroyed, and one large vehicle was damaged on the VII Army Corps front.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 February 1988

Communique No 3,023

JN151746 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,023 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 15 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces embody their deep faith in God and in principles through their heroic confrontation of the remnants of the ruling charlatans in Iran. The results of our Armed Forces' activities for last night and today were as follows:

1. The planes of our gigantic Air Force continued their heroic raids against enemy units in the operational sectors, inflicting on the tyrant Khomeyniites important losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment. Our planes then returned safely to base, praise be to God, after carrying out 60 combat missions.

2. The courageous helicopter gunship knights continue to inflict further losses on the apostate enemies. Today, they carried out 39 combat missions and destroyed numerous scoundrels' concentrations, positions, and equipment. The knights then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Twenty-two scoundrels were killed, 4 vehicles and 3 firing positions were destroyed, and 2 ammunition dumps were blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. Three machinegun emplacements and one observation post were destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. Three enemy soldiers were killed, two observation posts, one machinegun emplacement, and two infantry positions were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. Two ammunition dumps were blown up, one enemy soldier was killed, and two infantry positions were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. One shovel [preceding word in English] and one infantry position were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

8. Two various positions and one machinegun emplacement were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris.

9. At two different times, our brave units in the VII Army Corps sector spotted two enemy drones. Our courageous men managed to down them. In other areas of this sector, one scoundrel was killed, four infantry positions and one shovel were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 February 1988

4 Iranian Boats 'Destroyed'

JN152028 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2006 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Statement issued by a military spokesman dated 15 February]

[Text] The despotic Khomeyniite revolution, which is persisting in its evil and continuing war and aggression against our country, finds in its foolish adventures a course of evil and crime.

At 1455 [1155 GMT] today, the brave men of the sea monitored 11 enemy boats trying to approach Al-'Amiq Port. Immediately afterwards, our bold helicopter gunships raided them through perfect coordination with our brave naval force. At 1615, four enemy boats were destroyed and sunk with all the knaves on board, while the rest of the boats fled the scene. All of our helicopter gunships returned safely to base in God's care.

[Dated] 15 February 1988

'Maritime Target' Hit 15 Feb

JN160709 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA)—Iraqi planes attacked a very large maritime target off the Iranian coast last night, dealing it an accurate and effective blow. They then returned safely to base.

This came in a statement made by the military spokesman for the Armed Forces General Command. The spokesman said that the Iraqi Air Force will continue to destroy maritime targets carrying oil of the defeated Iranian regime, the revenues of which are used to carry out aggression against Iraq.

Fighting in Jamjamal Denied

JN161028 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman today denied Iranian allegations of fighting in the Jamjamal area, northern Iraq, and described them as mere lies. The Iraqi spokesman said the Iranians and their agents are too weak to reach these areas. The spokesman said the Iranian regime concocts these lies from time to time to feed its propaganda machine.

Editorial on Launching of 'Guided Object'

JN130927 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has warned the Zionist entity against "persisting in aggression against Iraq." It says the Zionist government "completely bears the ensuing consequences of its aggressive behavior and its jeopardization of international air routes."

AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, said in an editorial today the Zionists must realize that their "cheap and miserable" attempts will not undermine Iraq's steadfastness and ability.

It adds that by this behavior the Zionist entity confirms its continuous aggressive course of defying international will and encroaching on others' rights, following in this respect the manner of its allies, the rulers of Iran. The paper says the launching of a guided object from the occupied territory to enter Iraqi airspace through civilian air lines following air route R-19 comes within the constant Zionist objective of serving Iranian aggression and to "pass monitored information to the Iranian rulers to encourage them to continue aggression against Iraq."

AL-QADISIYAH says Iraq has repeatedly and frequently drawn attention to the fact that Khomeynism and Zionism share the same expansionist and rancorous objectives and intentions and that the Zionist entity practically supports Iranian aggression against Iraq and encourages the Tehran rulers to prolong the war.

The paper adds that the Zionist entity carried out its criminal aggression against the peaceful Iraqi nuclear reactor in the service of the objectives of Iranian aggression and to obstruct Iraqi development plans. The Zionist entity also supplied the Khomeyniites with weapons and expertise to support this aggression. On the other hand, the Khomeyniites consolidated relations with their Zionist allies and carried out practical steps to serve them through the emigration of Iranian Jews, the exchange of visits with the Zionists, and coordination in military, political, and economic fields to implement their joint schemes against Iraq and to conspire against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and the legitimate Palestinian leadership.

The paper affirms that the Zionists attempt to obtain information through espionage to pass it to the Iranian rulers to serve their aggressive schemes and repeated attacks on Iraq.

It notes that the heroic Iraqi fighters have foiled a "new link in the chain of Zionist aggression whose objectives and intentions are linked to the Khomeyniite aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation."

Foreign Ministry Denies Drone Downed by Iraqis

TA130516 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has denied a report by Iraq that Baghdad has shot down an unmanned Israeli surveillance aircraft gathering intelligence information for Iran. An Iraqi military communique issued in Baghdad said the drone was shot down on Thursday afternoon near Iraq's southern border with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

AL-AHRAM Reports Nuclear Tests in Antarctic

NC131245 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM reports today that Israel is conducting a number of nuclear activities in the Antarctic, in cooperation with France, Norway, and South Africa, and that Israel is maintaining a military presence in that area. The paper adds that Israel has conducted three nuclear explosions, the first in 1979 and the other two in 1986. These three tests were detected by U.S. and Soviet monitoring facilities.

AL-AHRAM goes on to say that, according to confirmed reports, Israel began its activities in this region, which is far from the eyes of the world, in 1985, in accordance with a secret agreement with Norway and South Africa. This agreement allowed Israel to send hundreds of military personnel and technicians to the Norwegian sector of the South Pole. It adds that in May 1987, Israel rented an island in the polar zone belonging to France for 20 years, until May 2007. There are now 500 Israelis on this island, among them 150 military men. Israel had also built an airport on the island and work is under way to build an Israeli port.

It should be recalled that in 1959 a treaty was signed among the 16 countries that divided the South Pole. This treaty stipulates that the continent should be used only for peaceful purposes. No weapons are allowed onto it and no military bases or fortifications are permitted to be set up there. The treaty also stipulates that no nuclear waste should be dumped there. The treaty expires in 1991 and allows any of these 16 countries to search the entire continent to ascertain that the other countries are abiding by the treaty clauses.

AL-AHRAM says that cooperation between Israel and the three countries—France, Norway, and South Africa—started under the cover of scientific research and the extraction of minerals. Within this framework, Israel sent 1,150 technicians and guards with hundreds of others from Norway and South Africa. The most important outcome of the research, which began in 1985, was the discovery of uranium the basis for manufacturing nuclear weapons.

The information obtained by AL-AHRAM confirms that the first nuclear test conducted by Israel was in 1979, before its cooperation with other countries in the Antarctic zone took on these grave and huge dimensions. That test was monitored by the U.S. satellite (Fila) and reports then spoke of South Africa's participation alongside Israel in conducting it. Israel conducted its second nuclear test on 5 March 1986 in the Queen Maud Land sector of the Antarctic zone. It then conducted its third test on 3 December 1986. Soviet monitoring stations succeeded in detecting the two explosions while the Norwegian authorities tried to deceive everybody by claiming that what the Soviet and international monitoring stations had detected were only huge glacial breakups in the region.

Foreign Ministry Denies Report

TA131843 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Israel and Norway have denied an Egyptian newspaper report that Israel conducted nuclear tests in the Norwegian sector of Antarctica. The report in AL-AHRAM charged that Norway and South Africa had cooperated in the tests which allegedly took place in 1979 and 1986. In Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry spokesman termed the report sheer nonsense. The Norwegian Foreign Ministry spokesman in Oslo issued a similar denial.

PLO Said Behind Ship Explosion in Cyprus

TA151319 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning said—prior to the report on the explosion [aboard the PLO vessel in Cyprus]—that Israel has decided not to allow the PLO to achieve its aims in the deportees ship affair.

Political sources in Jerusalem said that following the farce concocted by the PLO heads in Greece, the PLO agents had to resort to blowing up the ship themselves in order to extricate themselves from the idea.

Vessel 'Cheap Propaganda'

JN121706 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 12 Feb 88

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] There is a basic question raised by the issue of the so-called boat of return, which 'Arafat's organization intends to send to Israeli territorial waters from one of the Greek ports. The question is: What is the real weight of that boat, whether it sets sail or not? If we want to determine its weight, we should know its contents. We can say that a small part of its contents consists of journalists, television and radio teams, and a small number of deceivers. The greater part of the contents consists of members of 'Arafat's organizations who are

directly or indirectly responsible for committing the ugliest terrorist and inhuman crimes; whose hands are stained with the blood of innocent children, women, elderly, and unarmed civilians; and who have been trying to undermine peace prospects and damage the seeds of existence between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

There is another pressing question about this issue: What is the real message of that boat? Does it contain a recognition by these organizations' officials of the right of Israel to exist? Does it contain their renunciation of terrorism and terrorist actions? Or does it contain a call for peace and fruitful coexistence between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples? The message contains none of these. Instead, it carries the flag of 'Arafat's organization, whose charter calls for the destruction of the state of Israel and which has adopted terrorism and sabotage as its policy.

In light of these facts, we can understand 'Arafat's boat as merely a new 'Arafat scenario and an exposed 'Arafat game aimed at cheap propaganda purposes, which cannot deceive anybody except the simpleminded. The question is this: Is this new 'Arafat scenario what the Palestinians need? Will it offer any solution to the Palestinians' problem?

Shamir Proposes Changes in U.S. Peace Plan

Urges Autonomy as First Step

TA121428 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that the international conference idea has emerged without agreement or consultation, as if it were a medication from a Soviet-Arab pharmacy. It is good that the people of Israel have refrained from swallowing this dangerous medication.

In a lecture at the commercial and industrial club in Tel Aviv, the prime minister said that anybody who claims with certainty that had we gone for an international conference we would have been spared the riots in the territories, knows that had we done so we would have found ourselves outside Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza long ago.

Mr Shamir called for implementing autonomy in the territories as an initial stage for a possibility political solution. This is reported by our correspondent Meron Tzur.

Shultz Rejects Changes

TA121914 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz refuses to comply with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposals for changes in the U.S. plan. Our correspondent in Washington Nisim Mish'al has initial details about an exchange of letters which took place between the prime minister and the U.S. secretary of state over the last 2 days.

[Begin recording] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on Wednesday wrote a letter to the U.S. secretary of state, requesting that several clauses in the U.S. initiative be changed. First, that negotiations under an international umbrella be given up. Second, that the timetable suggested by the United States for the implementation of autonomy be postponed. Third, that no binding date be set for the beginning of negotiations on the permanent solution for the territories. The prime minister also asked in his letter that the United States aid in enlisting international support for the construction of housing units in Gaza.

Yesterday, Mr Shultz answered the prime minister, unequivocally stating that he does not intend to change any clause in the U.S. initiative. The meaning of the changes you suggest, Shultz writes, is the liquidation of the process. This package had been carefully put together, and there is no intention to drop parts of it. As for the matter of housing units in Gaza, Shultz says that the international community will not enlist for the construction of housing units in Gaza as long as the region is under Israeli control. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shamir Remarks on U.S. Ties

TA121845 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] The disagreements between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz were expressed today during Mr Shamir's appearance at the commercial club in Tel Aviv. The prime minister said one should not overemphasize the debate with the United States which is a friendly country. We do not agree with them, he said, but this is not surprising. There is a tradition of cooperation and friendship between us accompanied by a tradition of lacking agreement on vital problems such as borders, Jerusalem, and security. Following is an excerpt of the prime minister's remarks.

[Begin recording] The United States, our best friend among the world's nations, decided under the pressure of events in the territories, in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, that it has to enter the international sphere. It decided it has to do something in order to prevent the Soviet Union and its allies and satellites from taking the initiative in this sphere.

Therefore, the U.S. Government decided to take the initiative and to lead a political move. What did it choose then? It chose that way which was said to have been defunct, to have been forgotten and out of pace with everything else, the Camp David way. It did not call

Camp David Camp David. Indeed, it did not call autonomy by its name but rather referred to a temporary arrangement, but it chose the Camp David principles and points. [end recording]

Shamir-Shultz Tension Noted

TA141059 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Feb 88 pp 1, 8

[Report by Menahem Shalev and Washington correspondent]

[Excerpts] The principle of "peace for territories," which the U.S. claims is the linchpin of its new peace initiative, is not acceptable to Prime Minister Shamir, sources close to the prime minister reiterated last night.

Secretary of State George Shultz stressed in a speech in New York that if the principle is not accepted, there is no point to U.S. efforts to revive the peace process.

But sources close to Shamir said that the differences over the principle are being played up by the prime minister's opponents, and that they do not expect them to play a major role in Shultz's mission here in two week's time. The debate between Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres over the American peace move has exacerbated the already-strained relations between the two.

Shultz, in an address to the New York-based Council of Foreign Relations (CFR) and in meetings with Jewish leaders also said, however, that peace must be negotiated with both major parties in Israel.

"What we intend to do cannot be done on the basis of 51 per cent against 49 per cent," Shultz said, "and we must work with both parties."

Foreign Ministry sources said last night that Shamir and Shultz are set on a clear collision course concerning the American peace initiative.

They cited the Americans' collaboration with the Soviets on the details of the peace plan, Shultz's reported stand that there is no "fallback" position to the American plan and the secretary's speech before the CFR as evidence of U.S. resolve to propel their plan forward notwithstanding Shamir's objections.

But the prime minister's bureau dismissed the claims of a fallout between Shamir and Shultz, saying that "this, perhaps, is what Peres would like, but it does not conform to the facts."

Sources close to Shamir continue to insist that the Americans have yet to consolidate a detailed plan, and that Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy told Shamir on his visit here last week that the prime minister's remarks would be taken into consideration before the State Department puts the finishing touches on the American plan.

"The last thing that Shultz wants—or needs—is a fight with Shamir," an official said. "A confrontation might be in the works, but it is definitely premature to say that it already exists."

The sources said that Shamir and Shultz had exchanged letters prior to Murphy's arrival here. In his letter, Shamir raised his objections to the accelerated timetable for negotiations presented by the Americans, to their promotion of talks on the final settlement which are not dependent on the outcome of the talks on the interim arrangement, and to an international umbrella for peace talks. Shamir also reiterated his plea for an international effort to help resettle the Gaza Strip refugees.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 14 February, in a shorter report on Shamir's opposition to the U.S. peace plan, quote unnamed "sources in the prime minister's office" as saying that "Shamir has made it clear to the U.S. that he will not agree to the shortening of the autonomy process, nor to an early international conference, or international opening, or event, no matter what it is called."]

In his reply, Shultz noted that the elements objected to by Shamir were "essential" but did not commit himself, informed sources said. Shultz also said that an international effort on Gaza could not proceed if it was not accompanied by an internationally accepted peace process.

Another message was reportedly received from the administration on Friday, reiterating the U.S. pledge that they will not "surprise" Shamir with hitherto unknown proposals and that all details of the peace plan will be worked out in "cooperation" with Israel.

The differences over the "peace for territories" principle originate with the 1967 Security Council Resolution 242 which speaks of "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict" and of "termination of all claims or states of belligerency" by parties to the Arab-Israeli conflicts.

Officials in the prime minister's bureau said last night that they believe that by withdrawing from 95 per cent of the Sinai, Israel had fulfilled its obligations under 242. Further, they said, the term "withdrawal" did not necessarily imply a total withdrawal of forces and abandonment of claims to sovereignty. [passage omitted]

A senior official estimated last night that the Americans are planning to "stretch" Shamir's agreement in October to a U.S.-Soviet call for peace talks so that the prime minister will be persuaded to agree to a limited reconvention of the 1973 Geneva Convention which was chaired by the two superpowers. The official added that Jordan's King Husayn might insist that the three other

members of the Security Council—Britain, France and China—be invited to the convention, but it will be clear that their status will be lower than that of the Americans and the Soviets.

"Shamir has already agreed to a Soviet-American start for talks and he has already agreed to an international endorsement of a peace agreement at the end of the talks. All the Americans have to do now is somehow get him to agree about the middle," the official said. [passage omitted]

[In a report by Ilan Bakhar and 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lyth on pages one and two, Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 14 February notes that a senior Likud minister last night told the newspaper that in a meeting held over the weekend attended by Shamir, "the Likud ministers agreed to look thoroughly into the possibility of ousting Peres from the government at once" because of his latest moves behind the government's back which run counter to the Cabinet's position.

[In a report on pages one and two, Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ for 14 February quotes associates of Shamir and Peres as saying that "the differences between the Alignment and the Likud over the U.S. peace plan will lead to the Alignment's departure from the government or to early elections. To a great extent, this depends on the determination of the U.S. Administration to put its weight behind the plan as well as on the results of Secretary of State George Shultz' talks on this issue in Moscow prior to his departure for the Middle East. The Alignment hopes this time Shultz will not renege on his initiative and will openly express his opinion about the Likud's intransigence. In this case, the Alignment could also put the blame on Shamir for the crisis in Israeli-U.S. relations. A source in the Likud said that Shamir will not be sorry if the Alignment quits the government, and may even be in favor of bringing elections forward to the summer months. This is unacceptable to the Alignment because of the expected absence from Israel of many of its voters during this period."]

Shamir, Peres Offices Assess Shultz Visit

TA131954 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz refuses to comply with the proposals of Prime Minister Shamir who wants to change the U.S. plan. This is reported by our correspondent in Washington, Nisim Mish'al.

It is said in the prime minister's office this evening that a message on this issue which reached Jerusalem is not tantamount to dictating to the prime minister, and it contains understanding for the difficulties which the prime minister specified regarding the U.S. peace initiative.

In contrast, it is assessed in the foreign minister's office this evening that the United States' determination to promote the peace process is more intense and that real pressure is expected to be applied to the prime minister. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports on the political developments in Jerusalem:

[Begin recording] In less than 2 weeks the U.S. secretary of state will arrive in the Middle East to personally further his new peace initiative. Tension, disagreements, and contradictory interpretations of what can be expected of this important visit are increasing already. There is general agreement already on one major point: This time the U.S. peace initiative is serious and detailed, and Secretary of State Shultz is making a great deal of effort to see that it succeeds.

He reported it to the Soviets as well as to all the European Community countries. Lately he has also been expressing an urgent need to find a solution to the grave crisis in the territories.

Last night our correspondent in Washington Nisim Mish'al reported an exchange of messages between the prime minister and Secretary Shultz over the weekend [passage omitted]

In reaction to this report the prime minister's senior aides told us this evening that the description of Shultz' position is exaggerated. There is no dictating to Shamir in the message, they say, agreeing though that the United States is currently acting under the pressure of events in the territories. A difficult time may come, the prime minister's aides say, but we are still far from this.

In contrast, senior officials in Washington and in the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry assess today that this time Secretary Shultz does not intend to give in to the prime minister as he did in his last visit in October. The President and secretary of state are currently operating under the very heavy pressure of U.S. public opinion to take the lead in terminating the riots in the territories. As a result, they assess that Shamir is to expect tough and stiff negotiations during Secretary Shultz' visit. [end recording]

Peres Urges Joint Meeting

TA151635 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has expressed the hope that he and the prime minister will hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz together so that the secretary will avoid the need to shuttle back and forth from the Foreign Ministry to the prime minister's office as his envoy Murphy was forced to do. Minister Peres said that despite the difference of opinion, he and the prime minister must conduct the talks jointly, not separately. In that way they can avoid creating the impression that two governments are ruling Israel.

Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that the foreign minister was addressing reporters at the end of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session. At that session, Mr Peres said that the Likud is making efforts to enlist U.S. Jewry to deter the U.S. Administration from pursuing the political process.

Sharon Terms Shultz Formula 'Unacceptable'

TA151557 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' position is unacceptable to Israel, said Minister Ari'el Sharon today in the course of a tour of industrial plants in Sha'ar Hanegev. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv accompanied him. [passage omitted]

[Begin Sharon recording] The well-being and actual existence of a nation are undoubtedly far more important than the prestige of a man, even if he is a great friend and even if he represents Israel's greatest friend. Regarding the formula of territories in return for peace, we accepted this concept when we made peace with Egypt. But at that time and under those circumstances we were able to take that risk. This approach is unacceptable to us with reference to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We therefore cannot accept the solution offered by the formula of peace for territories. [end recording]

Peres on Borders, Soviet Participation in Peace

TA151801 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Minister, do you accept Shultz's position, which advocates peace in exchange for territories?

[Peres] The formula of peace in exchange for territories is included both in the Camp David agreements and also in [UN Resolution] 242. The argument over 242 was not over the principle of peace in exchange for territories, rather over peace in exchange for all the territories. Mr Shultz is not saying all the territories, and therefore it is in accordance with 242.

[Correspondent] What security borders are acceptable to you—assuming that the position of peace in exchange for territories is accepted?

[Peres] The security border should be the Jordan [River] with a united Jerusalem.

[Correspondent] Do you think there is room to include the Soviets in implementing the U.S. ideas?

[Peres] The Americans have already said they are in favor of Soviet participation. Therefore they have already decided this question. In fact they have already determined three things: an international event; the timetable; and examination of a permanent arrangement. These three things are inter-connected.

[Correspondent] In view of the sharpening debate between yourself and the prime minister, do you think that on the eve of Shultz's visit to Israel it is possible to consolidate a joint position in relation to the U.S. ideas?

[Peres] I do not know whether this is possible. I only think we should try. I proposed that we sit together. It does not seem proper to me that U.S. envoys arrive here and there is an appearance of two governments. I think that when Shultz comes we should sit together, despite the differences of opinion between us.

Shamir Talks to Media, Leaves for Italy

TA150713 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0620 GMT 15 Feb 88

[News conference with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir prior to his departure on an official 3-day visit to Italy at Ben-Gurion Airport's VIP lounge—live]

[Text] [Shamir, picked up in progress] ...on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. There is friendly and fruitful cooperation between our two countries in many areas, such as economics, culture, tourism, and so forth. We maintain a political dialogue which is occasionally afflicted by differences of opinion. These, however, never affect the relations of friendship and cooperation.

We remember the recent visit to Israel of Italian President Cossiga, accompanied by Foreign Minister Andreotti, during which we had ample opportunity to discuss at length all the issues of interest to both countries. Over the years, there have been many visits and opportunities to pursue this dialogue.

This time I also hope to have the opportunity to meet the leaders of Italy's government, parliament, parties, and economy to hear their views and explain our positions. Italy is one of the most important members of the EC, and through it we will be given the opportunity to talk to Europe. The latter has recently taken an interest in Israel, although our positions are not always compatible. Thank you very much.

[IDF political correspondent 'Oz Frankel] Mr Shamir, with your permission, I would like to ask a question on a political issue. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz says that the decisive principle in peace negotiations is that of land in exchange for peace. Is this principle acceptable to you? If I am not mistaken, this principle is included in UN Security Council Resolution 242 which Israel accepted at the time.

[Shamir] Interpretations of this resolution vary. This is not exactly the principle that guides my actions. We know that Secretary of State Shultz will arrive in Israel within the next 10 to 12 days, and this will be a good opportunity to discuss all the details of the U.S. plan—if one already exists—for reaching peace in the Middle East.

[Frankel] About your relationship with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres: You lashed out against him in an interview last Friday. Will you be able to sit together in the same government over the next 9 months?

[Shamir] The framework of the national unity government—a government of a special nature and mission that entails particular difficulties—provides for such occasional events. I hope the government will prevail until the elections.

[Frankel] You are leaving for Europe today on your first trip abroad since the outbreak of the riots in the territories. You are aware of the criticism leveled at Israel by Europe, including the Jewish community. How do you intend to tackle this criticism during your visit?

[Shamir] There certainly is criticism, and this is not the first time we have faced such an occurrence. We must tackle this criticism, present our views, and explain to the European nations that in the current case they must realize the historical context of Israel's struggle for its existence and sovereignty since its inception.

[Voice of Israel correspondent Dan Eshel] Mr Prime Minister, you are the first Cabinet member going abroad since the beginning of the riots in the territories. You are leaving in the wake of the anti-Israeli denunciation issued by the European Council of Ministers. On the other hand, you are leaving one day after the trial of terrorists in Italy. How do you perceive the atmosphere on the eve of your departure?

[Shamir] I do not understand why you stress that this is the first visit abroad. We have not put ourselves under siege, and we maintain contacts and relations with the whole world. That includes Europe, which is close to us in many respects. If there are differences of opinion, they should be clarified and Israel's position should be explained. We should hear out their views and try to persuade them that our positions are just.

Peres Criticizes Likud's Policy on Autonomy

TA151400 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres attacked the Likud and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in today's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session. Peres said: I state with certainty that the halt in the political initiative has caused the frustration in the territories which is behind the current wave of disturbances. According to Peres the autonomy is only an excuse to avoid negotiations. Our correspondent Natan Gutman has an excerpt of Peres' remarks:

[Begin Peres recording] Let me ask the Likud again: What are you proposing? After all the autonomy does not have a partner. You have not succeeded in completing the autonomy negotiations with Egypt. The autonomy is like dough that has not risen—no agreement was reached regarding it. What are you proposing? [end recording]

Peres Office: Alignment Not To Leave Government

TA141531 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Shim'on Peres' office states that the Alignment will remain in the government, and the foreign minister will do all he can to promote the peace process and the U.S. initiative. Our political correspondent reports that the foreign minister's office has thus denied a report on the Alignment's intention to leave the government.

Rabin, Shomron on IDF Policies in Territories

TA161532 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] The defense minister has said that Israel will lose the political battle if Arabs in the territories manage to continue perpetrating acts of violence. Minister Rabin admitted that it was a mistake to try to force the merchants in the territories to resume activity. He said that Israel should avoid confrontations in the civilian sphere in which success cannot be guaranteed. The defense minister made these remarks in an address before senior commanders stationed in the Gaza Strip. The remarks were reported by our correspondent Moti Amir and the English news correspondent Steve Rodan.

The chief of staff said in the same meeting that the IDF will remain in the territories until the struggle there ends in our favor. This struggle is liable to last a long time.

Cabinet Briefed on Situation in Territories

TA141810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] The Cabinet today was briefed on relative quiet which has prevailed in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza over the past weekend. The Cabinet was also told of the willingness of many West Bank residents to once again leave for work within the Green Line boundaries. At the end of reviews by the defense minister and the police affairs minister, Cabinet ministers today discussed the situation, although again, no decisions were made. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports.

[Begin recording] Cabinet meetings in recent weeks are increasingly turning into a stage for mutual backbiting. For instance, when the police affairs minister reviewed last weekend's events in Jerusalem, Minister Hayim

Corfu asked why the police approved large demonstrations by Peace Now members in Jerusalem and Haifa while Minister Bar-Lev keeps repeating his complaint about the heavy burden shouldered by policemen.

Minister Ari'el Sharon asked: If Peace Now's demonstration had not been approved, where would Hanna Sinyurah have appeared? Minister Moda'i asked the police affairs minister whether the Israeli mounted police had been eliminated, now that they are not used to disperse disturbances in Jerusalem's suburbs.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Qatzav asked the attorney general whether the law was not broken in calls heard in yesterday's demonstrations for IDF soldiers to disobey their commanders' orders in the territories.

Minister Ari'el Sharon turned to Justice Minister Avraham Sharir and asked why there is no legislation outlawing organizations such as the Al-Shabibah. This organization is disguised as a youth movement but is, in fact, a terrible organization engaged in incitement and sabotage.

Minister Yosef Shapira demanded that the defense minister close every business refusing to open its doors for 6 months. He further demanded that every Arab whose family members are involved in terror should be prevented from working within the Green Line. The defense minister rejected these proposals.

Possibly the most characteristic feature of what has taken place in recent Cabinet meetings is the brief conversation between Minister Moda'i and Defense Minister Rabin. Moda'i: Does the defense minister perhaps have a forecast regarding the future of the riots in the territories? Rabin's answer: I am not a prophet, as you well know. [end recording]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir promised in today's Cabinet meeting that the political process proposed by the United States will be discussed in the Inner Cabinet next week, and will later be raised for discussion by the Cabinet plenum.

Goren Discusses Civilian Administration's Role

TA141656 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Interview with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of activities in the territories, in the Jerusalem studio by Dan Shilon and Ya'el Dan in the Tel Aviv studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] In light of recent events in the territories, and in view of the attitude of the Arab population toward you, does not your function become meaningless?

[Goren] I think the word meaningless is an exaggeration. We certainly find it more difficult to fulfill our functions as a Civilian Administration under the present conditions. As far as we are concerned, however, we have no intention of changing our policy—of providing services to the population—that can and should be served.

[Dan] We have been hearing that very heavy pressure has been exerted on mayors and municipality members to resign. I think that so far most of them have not resigned. How long do you think they can persevere, and what keeps them going?

[Goren] Well, these people are not dealing in questions of security and politics. They are providing services to the population, and the population understands this. We cannot force them to stay in their positions. As far as we are concerned, we want them to stay on. If they are unable to carry out their functions, the only ones to suffer will be the inhabitants themselves.

[Shilon] Mr Goren, you said that Israel has not changed its policy in the territories. To what extent, however, are the inhabitants interested in the services you provide?

[Goren] It is a fact that they have nobody else to provide these services. They continue to receive them from us.

[Shilon] Mr Goren, people are saying that there was a serious intelligence blunder regarding the events in the territories. They say that we failed to foresee what happened, and what may yet take place. We now hear that a new intelligence body is to be established. This body is to supply more thorough and reliable information. Is this an expression of no-confidence in you?

[Goren] I am not responsible for the security angle. That is all I can say here. I will not say anymore about this issue. We will save it for another time.

[Dan] Let me ask you another question. We read in last weekend's newspapers about a very organized, internal body which apparently organizes the disturbances. What can you tell us about about this body?

[Goren] There is no doubt that some of the disturbances are organized, whereas some are a result of the atmosphere in the area.

[Dan] Can you speak about a specific body that organizes and coordinates...

[Goren, interrupting] I am not saying that there is one body which organizes everything. In various places, in various sectors and organizations so-called committees have been established on a low level. These committees are trying to issue pamphlets and mobilize street gangs, and this is what is happening in the field. I suggest, however, that we leave the security issue for another time. [passage omitted]

Goren on Measures To Prevent Flow of PLO Funds

TA141848 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Interview with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, by Arye Gus, correspondent in the territories, on 14 February; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Gus] How is the Civilian Administration preparing to maintain services in the territories in what is surely an unusual situation, in a situation which borders on civil disobedience?

[Goren] I do not think this is a situation of civil uprising. At this stage we are overcoming the difficulties. I very much hope these difficulties will not increase. If this is the case we will continue to make efforts to continue to provide services. Still, if the elements which provide services cease functioning, and the population is uninterested in receiving services, it will be impossible to force them to do so. The one to suffer will then be the population itself.

[Gus] The PLO talks of external aid it is sending to the residents of the territories. There is continual contact, or the possibility of such contact, between the residents of the territories and the PLO. How do you, for your part, try to guarantee security?

[Goren] If you are referring to funds, we will adopt several measures intended to at least make it difficult for the PLO, or hostile elements, to inject hostile funds into the territories. We have already adopted a series of measures here, and I believe we will adopt another series of actions with the aim of preventing this.

[Gus] Should one talk of a change in the format of the Civilian Administration or a change in the distribution of duties between the Civilian Administration and the army, for instance?

[Goren] I do not know of any change in structures, nor do I think any change is necessary. Coordination with the various security elements exists, and I think this should be the future direction too, unless deviations occur. I hope this will not come to pass. [passage omitted]

Mordekhay on Leaders Criticism, Lifting Curfews

TA141529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] The commander of the Central [as heard] Command charged that public leaders wrong the army with the criticism they level at its anti-riot activities. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that in a talk with Knesset members of the Center Movement touring refugee camps in Gaza, Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay said that it is the leaders who sent the soldiers to these places in the territories, and now they are picking on exceptional cases with which they attack the IDF.

The major general announced that within 2 days the curfews will be lifted from the refugee camps and the inhabitants will be allowed to leave for work.

4 Youths Reported 'Buried Alive' by Soldiers

IDF Investigating Report

TA141351 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by Dani Rubinstein and Dani Tzidqoni]

[Text] The IDF is investigating the actions of an officer and soldiers who used a bulldozer to bury alive four youths from the village of Salim, near Nabulus. A similar incident was reported yesterday near the refugee camp of Al-Shati'.

The incident occurred a week ago when an IDF force ordered youths to clear roadblocks and burning tires east of the town, on the road leading to the settlement of Elon More. They were thrown into a pit, and a bulldozer covered them with earth. They were rescued by their relatives.

The DAVAR correspondent has learned that the IDF has corroborated most of the details of the complaints, but a military source was only prepared to confirm that the complaint is being investigated.

2 Soldiers Arrested

TA150800 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Feb 88 pp 1, 7

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] Two soldiers serving in the military government have been arrested in connection with an incident last week at Salim village near Nabulus in which an army bulldozer reportedly buried alive four Palestinian youths after a protest, military sources said yesterday.

An IDF spokesman's announcement was the first official confirmation of the incident reported by villagers and the PLO over the past week.

"The OC [Office of the Commander] Central Command has ordered a Military Police investigation of the incident of improper behaviour by troops in the village of Salim," the spokesman said. "The investigation has been given the highest priority. Two soldiers have been arrested, and additional arrests are expected."

The incident on February 5 is believed to have involved soldiers serving in the military government, who stayed behind after troops broke up rioting at Salim. [passage omitted]

Mitzna' on Burial Incident

TA150822 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] The IDF closed off the village of Abu Days east of Jerusalem this morning and is now searching for and arresting suspected agitators. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that several youngsters have been arrested so far. IDF bulldozers are clearing stone barriers from roads, and children and youngsters are being demanded to do the same.

Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, told our correspondent that this operation is being conducted in the framework of action taken to restore peace to the area. He said he hoped quiet would again prevail in the village after the army's operation.

Commenting on the burial of youngsters in the village of Salim, Maj Gen Mitzna' said that even in his most nightmarish dreams he would not have imagined that soldiers would act that way. He said he ordered Military Police to investigate the issue and noted that the findings would also be submitted to the villagers as soon as the investigation is completed.

Arabs, Alignment Counterdemonstrate in Haifa

TA131414 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] There were several attempts to disrupt order in the Gaza Strip today. These consisted of rioters burning tires, erecting roadblocks, and throwing stones. The centers of the disturbances were the Al-Burayj refugee camp, Khan Yunus, and the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a commercial strike was staged throughout the Gaza Strip today, and there was only sparse traffic on the roads.

About 3,000 demonstrators are marching from the town hall to the port in Haifa protesting the government and its ministers. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv notes that radical calls are also heard. The demonstrators are Israeli Arabs. A counterdemonstration is being staged by Alignment Knesset Member Shevah Weiss who says that the Arabs' demonstration and the radical calls harm Jewish-Arab relations in Israel.

Sinyurah Addresses Peace Now Demonstration

TA132008 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Peace Now Movement's mass rally in memory of Emil Grunzweig on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of his murder [a movement member killed during a demonstration against the Lebanese war] ended in Jerusalem amid torrential rain.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that one of the speakers during the rally was AL-FAJR Editor Hanna Sinyurah whose remarks were applauded. He defined Emil Grunzweig as a true hero, noting that the two peoples, the Jewish and Palestinian, are worthy of a better future after the suffering they have gone through. Hanna Sinyurah noted that the Palestinian people recognize the existence of Israel and wants Israel to recognize it too.

Several Temple Mount faithful people and KAKH members staged a counter demonstration, but there were no clashes.

Further Reports on Events, Policy in Territories

Druze Strike on Anniversary

TA140532 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Druze residents on the Golan Heights are on strike today in protest over the 6th anniversary of extending Israeli law to the area. Heavy police reinforcements are standing by to prevent disorder. The Ministry of Education has instructed school principals and teachers to conduct studies as usual.

Riots Dispersed, 4 Arrested

TA140811 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] There were riots in the Druze village of Majdal Shams this morning. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that local villagers began hurling stones at policemen and border police personnel who dispersed the rioters with tear gas. A large group of rioters gathered in an alley and began chanting slogans against Israel's rule in the Golan Heights.

A procession quietly marched from the local school to one of the alleys in the village of Mas'adah.

Four Druze were arrested on suspicion of trying to throw firebombs at policemen. Hundreds of policemen and border police personnel are stationed in Druze villages today.

4 Police Injured; 20 Detained

TA141726 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Quiet has returned to the Golan Druze villages this afternoon following this morning's riot in Majdal Shams. Hundreds of policemen evacuated the village and returned to their bases.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that four policemen, including a woman officer and a rank and file policewoman, as well as several rioters were injured. More than 20 suspects were detained and additional detentions are expected. Commander Shlomo Haron,

the commanding officer of the police's Northern District, said that his people exercised restraint and used tear gas only after they were attacked with stones.

Despite today's events, the Interior Ministry decided to allow visits to Syria by Golan Druze. The first group of visitors will leave for Damascus this week.

Druze Visit to Syria Canceled

TA152107 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] The Interior Ministry has canceled the departure of the first group of 20 Golan Druze to Syria at the last minute. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that it seems that the suspension of this new arrangement is related to yesterday's incidents in the village of Majdal Shams.

'Squad' Uncovered in Gaza

TA141927 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Another squad which intended to harm the security forces was uncovered in the Gaza Strip. Two of the squad members were injured yesterday while preparing a bomb. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a third member of the squad who was not injured was captured, and that during the investigation a second bomb which did not explode was seized.

Shomron, Mitzna' Meet Settlers

TA141555 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] This afternoon the curfew was lifted on the Tulkarm refugee camp following 11 days of curfew. The curfew is still in force in Qalqilyah and Dayr al-Ghusun in Samaria, in Bayt Immar, and in the Al-Am'ari and Al-Jalazun refugee camps.

As in every other day, shops closed today at 1100 and schools were closed. At noon Chief of Staff Dan Shomron and 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, met Judaea and Samaria settlers. The chief of staff reviewed recent events in the territories and outlined the IDF's policy toward the rioters and the media. The settlers complained about the problem of security on the roads and the protection of buses. They requested a curb on the media coverage in the territories.

In Gaza there were several incidents this morning in which buses taking workers to work were stoned. The flow of workers to Israel was thin today, especially of workers from Rafah.

Altogether there was calm in the Gaza Strip today. There was also calm in East Jerusalem, except for one incident in which stones were thrown at soldiers in 'Anata.

Girl Killed by 'Local Elements'

TA141736 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] The young woman killed in the village of Al-'Arrub a few days ago was hurt by splinters of a slug fired by a Kalashnikov assault rifle. An examination showed that no IDF soldier in the area at the time was equipped with a Kalashnikov rifle, and that no settlers were in the area either. It is therefore believed that she was killed by local elements.

21 Arrested in Jerusalem

TA151212 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Report by police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum]

[Text] Twenty-one suspects have been arrested in the Jerusalem area since last night. Five of them were arrested in the old city on suspicion of having thrown Molotov cocktails in the last few days.

Several suspects have been arrested in Sur Bahir on evidence that they set several cars in the village on fire. The police attribute particular importance to the arrest of four suspects, three in Silwan and one in Sur Bahir. The four are described as being the leaders of agitators who have recently been operating in the Jerusalem area. So far the arrests have proceeded quietly, except for an incident a short time ago in which a police patrol was pelted with stones in Sur Bahir.

All in all, 431 people suspected of having taken part in the recent disturbances in the Jerusalem area have been arrested so far. Charges have already been filed against 300 of them. Police officials note that the arrests are not yet over and will continue in the next few days and nights.

Prisoners Riot in Shatta

TA151420 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] There is an uprising of security prisoners in the Shatta Prison in 'Emeq Yizre'el. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that this morning security prisoners in the confinement wing started rioting and activated a makeshift explosive charge, seriously wounding one of the jailers in the eye. Large police forces arrived at the prison. At present the security forces are trying to control the prisoners.

Police Quell Shatta Riot

TA151515 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Feb 88

[excerpt] Security guards and special police forces managed to quell the prisoners riots in the Shatta prison. The prison service has announced that the incident in the prison was not an uprising, rather a disturbance, and that order has been restored. [passage omitted]

IDF Operations Result in Lull

TA151630 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Report by 'Eran Ben-Porat]

[Excerpts] The inhabitants of the West Bank today demonstrated disregard for the latest pamphlets distributed throughout Judaea and Samaria yesterday calling for disruptions in commerce and an escalation of violence. Thus, quiet prevailed in Judaea and Samaria today.

On the surface it seemed that the population is growing calmer. Businesses in various places opened for relatively longer periods and the laborers left for work. Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, said today that is appears that the IDF operations have resulted in a certain lull. [passage omitted]

Other events registered in Judaea and Samaria today included two Molotov cocktail incidents. In the first, an incendiary bomb was hurled at a bus in Al-Birah. The other firebomb was thrown at a restaurant in Ramallah. Neither incident resulted in casualties or damage.

In Tulkarm, the PLO flag was hoisted on the roof of the car registration office; and in the neighboring village of (Ilbad,) detainees were asked by the IDF to remove barriers. A curfew is currently imposed on six West Bank places.

Balatah Wins Police Pullout

TA161607 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] The High Court of Justice today issued an injunction instructing the defense minister and the commander of Judaea and Samaria to show cause within 30 days why border police forces should not be withdrawn from the Balatah refugee camp, in the vicinity of Nabulus. The injunction was issued following the appeal of 12 Balatah residents who claimed that they have been suffering from the soldiers' degrading and offensive conduct. The appellants include parents of a 9-year old girl and a 4-year old boy.

Palestine 'Day of Fury' Marked

TA161229 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Report by Arye Gus, correspondent in the territories]

[Text] A commercial strike is under way in all Judaea and Samaria towns today, but in contrast with the past few days, the stores did not open at all this morning. Some of the municipal councils are also on strike, marking a new phenomenon in the course of the uprising experienced over the past 2 months. Furthermore, a public transportation strike is under way in several areas.

The strike is said to result from the residents' compliance with the call issued by the United National Command of the Uprising, which proclaimed today Palestine Day of Fury. The committee's pamphlets, distributed yesterday and the day before, urged the residents of the territories to step up their struggle, and even named specific targets: settlements, settlers, and work in Jewish locales.

The latest leaflet, No 7, is the first to be circulated since the clandestine printing shop in 'Isawiyah was closed down. Its appearance brought great satisfaction to nationalistic circles, who regard it as a manifestation of the continuation of the struggle. Other circles point to the fact that this leaflet was actually copied from an announcement broadcast on Al-Quds radio, which is inspired by the Syrians and by Jibril's organization.

In any case, along with the appearance of this leaflet, local pamphlets signed by popular committees in the territories have also been distributed. They also call on local residents to continue the strike.

The second part of leaflet No 7 was ignored. Thus, quiet has prevailed in Judaea and Samaria over the past few days and continues today as well. There have been no reports on clashes with the security forces, with the exception of several stone-throwing incidents in some places. The curfews imposed on Qalqilyah, Al-'Amari, and Al-Jalazun are still in force. Last night, a curfew was also imposed on the village of Idnah in the Hebron District, after a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a military vehicle. The car went up in flames, but no one was hurt. The security forces searched the area, and the curfew remains in effect.

The attempt to explain the relative quiet in the territories is currently based on two or perhaps three factors: the continued massive presence of IDF troops, as well as the detentions and the general IDF activity in the area; the fatigue shown by the local residents—otherwise known as the army of stone throwers; and a certain measure of disappointment, resulting from the failure of the attempt to launch the deportee ship.

Another two indicators to gauge the prevailing situation are the fact that the departure of laborers for work in Israel is irregular and the fact that the efforts to interfere

with it are continuing. This morning, two buses were attacked in the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus, and a bus that came to the village of Al-Mughayyir in the Hebron area to collect workers was set on fire. The export of citrus fruit to Jordan via the bridges, however, is continuing without interruption.

Bomb Discovered on Plane for Al-Jumayyil

Investigations Begin

NC121711 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Security sources at Beirut International Airport reported a short while ago that a Middle East Airlines Boeing 707 coming from Rome landed at the airport at 1005 today. The plane was supposed to leave Beirut for Cyprus to pick up President Amin al-Jumayyil. When maintenance engineers, airport security officials, and cleaning people found a strange object inside the plane, they informed the security authorities. Security officials arrived immediately to check the object, and found that it contained 1/2 kg of TNT. The officials dismantled the bomb.

This plane was replaced by another Boeing 707 which arrived from Kuwait. The second plane was subjected to a strict search before taking off for Cyprus at 1515.

Following the discovery of the explosive charge, Jamil Bayram, the military public prosecutor; Colonel Mahmud Fawwaz, acting director of the airport security department; Major Mustafa Ibrahim, chief of the investigation branch in the security department; and a number of Syrian Arab Forces officers arrived at the airport and met to begin the investigations.

A source at the airport security department has stated that investigations to identify those who had placed the bomb have begun. The investigations will be kept completely secret in order to ensure their integrity.

Syrian Complicity Hinted

NC122136 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] There is proof that Syria is responsible for the attempt to assassinate the president of the Republic on the plane scheduled to carry him to Yemen and Sudan. Syrian intelligence men at Khaldah Airport seized the explosive charge that had been placed in the Middle East Airlines plane and refused to give it to the concerned judicial organs for examination.

It has been learned that the explosive charge, which weighed about 1 kg, was connected to a very sophisticated and, as yet, unknown detonation device. The charge had been placed in the cockpit, directly above the plane's front tire cover, where it would be hard to detect.

Informed security sources have been evaluating the type of the charge and its placement. They pointed out that these two things indicate that there are various people behind the operation who have been effectively concealed.

Details of Discovery

NC122151 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] In a statement to the Voice of Lebanon, Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi explained that after receiving news of the discovery of a bomb on board the Middle East Airlines [MEA] plane, he ordered the arrest and interrogation of all suspects, and that no suspect would be released without his explicit orders. He added that all those who had been close to the plane have been arrested.

According to our information, the MEA plane was supposed to arrive from Rome yesterday. However, its arrival in Beirut was delayed until today, Friday, because of an alleged technical malfunction. The plane arrived at Beirut Airport at 1015 in good condition. It was then towed to MEA hangar No 24 for an inspection, which was completed by 1135.

At 1140, MEA employee Habib al-Tarabulsi was informed that this plane would carry President al-Jumayyil from Cyprus to North Yemen. Habib al-Tarabulsi in turn conveyed this news to Jubran Shadid, who is in charge of the MEA engineering and electronics department. At 1145, Captain Makkawi informed Captain Hutayt that the back-up radio on the plane was faulty and he wanted it replaced. Hutayt answered that there was no need for a replacement. Here, a dialogue [hiwar] took place between them, and the two boarded the plane to check the defect. While carrying out their inspection, they saw a signal emitting a dim light.

At 2130, Captain Makkawi reported that there was an object in the nose of the plane that was affecting the back-up radio. At 1320 Jubran Shadid was informed of this, and public security and Lebanese Army personnel then boarded the parked plane and checked its cockpit, finding an explosive charge.

Military and security experts reported that this explosive charge is very sophisticated, the likes of which they have not dismantled before.

Al-Jumayyil Comments

NC130920 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The latest news that we have received this morning with regard to the investigation into the discovery of a bomb aboard the Middle East Airlines plane is that the Lebanese judicial authorities last night received the explosive device and the detonator. The investigation will continue today.

The government's representative to the military court, Fawzi al-Daghir, will go to the airport today to examine the scene and question some of the suspects.

A military bomb expert was instructed to inspect the charge to determine the kind of explosives used, the power of the explosion it could cause, and the mode of its operation.

Security and judicial meetings, investigations, and questioning have been going on since last night.

AFP yesterday cited sources among the presidential delegation in Larnaca as saying that the explosive charge is modern, sophisticated, and hard to detect in an ordinary search. The bomb was primed to go off at an altitude of about 30,000 feet, that is, on the flight from Cyprus to Sanaa. From Beirut to Cyprus, the craft does not normally fly at an altitude higher than 15,000 feet.

AFP also says that President Amin al-Jumayyil received, while in Larnaca, telephone calls from Beirut. Some of the callers demanded that a committee from the Arab League be formed to investigate the incident. [passage omitted]

President al-Jumayyil commented on the bombing attempt last night by saying: This is not my first such experience. I have a long record of such encounters with danger. My fate can be no different from that of any other Lebanese. We have all been living on a powder keg for the past 15 years. I only hope that there will be an end to this country's suffering.

Airport Employees Detained

NC130940 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] The security authorities this morning received the explosive charge placed on President al-Jumayyil's aircraft yesterday. It is of the (pintress) type and weighs 800 grams. It was placed in the radio compartment, under the pilot's seat.

Security sources explained that the bomb is locally made, and required 20 minutes to install.

The office of the official in charge of airport security has issued the following statement: An explosive charge weighing 800 grams was discovered on a Middle East Airline Company aircraft on 12 February 1988. Subsequently, the military public prosecution assumed responsibility for the investigation. It received the charge after it had been dismantled by a military explosives experts. Criminal investigators arrived at the airport. A number of airport employees have been detained for questioning.

Al-Huss Condemns Attempt

NC130950 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Answering a question about the explosive charge placed on the aircraft that was to take President al-Jumayyil from Cyprus to Sanaa, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has said: There is no one among us who does not condemn such attempts. We condemn treacherous methods and assassination as a means for handling the conflict. They have brought calamities to Lebanon and its people.

Lebanese Forces Council Cited

NC131517 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command Council has denounced the attempt to assassinate President Amin al-Jumayyil, stressing that it was aimed at creating a constitutional vacuum prior to the presidential elections.

A spokesman for the Lebanese Forces Command Council said the attempt was also aimed at striking at one of the symbols of Lebanese legitimacy and the last bastion of national sovereignty.

Persons Detained in Cyprus

NC141751 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, the committee which met at Ba'bda Palace yesterday could hold another meeting tomorrow to discuss the progress made thus far in the investigations into the attempt to assassinate President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. The committee is made up of Minister Joseph al-Hashim, presidential adviser Elie Salim, and relevant judicial and security officials.

The information adds that copies of the preliminary report on the incident have been distributed to the ambassadors accredited to Lebanon.

According to NNA information, a number of persons have been detained in Cyprus for interrogation. Of the 12 persons detained in Beirut, only 7 have remained in custody pending further interrogation.

Al-Tufayli Denies Rohani's Al-Sadr Claim

NC131050 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Hizballah official Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has accused Ayatollah Mehdi Rohani, an Iranian religious figure residing in Paris, of being an agent for U.S. intelligence. Al-Tufayli stressed that Rohani was very close to the regime of the ousted shah and that U.S. intelligence has fabricated his recent statement on Imam Musa al-Sadr.

Al-Tufayli added that Israel spread similar rumors in 1982—that Imam Al-Sadr was being held by the Palestinians and that he would be released by the Israeli forces very soon. These rumors, he added, sought to divert attention away from the Israeli invasion of Lebanon at the time. He noted that it is no coincidence for Rohani to make his statement at a time when the scope of the

Palestinian uprising has extended and the camps war in Lebanon has terminated, in order to distract the people's attention away from the struggle against Israel.

Rohani Insists on Return

NC160710 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Ayatollah Rohani, leader of the Shi'ite sect in Europe, has affirmed that Imam Musa al-Sadr is alive, is staying in a certain country, and will soon return to Beirut. Rohani noted that negotiations are being conducted with the country in which Al-Sadr is staying. Rohani said the reappearance of Imam al-Sadr may be delayed for 3 weeks, 1 month, or 6 weeks. However, he added, the point is that he is alive and in good health.

Rohani said that during the 25 years he has been living in Paris he has met with world figures, which gave him access to this information. He noted that he has not met with Imam al-Sadr; however, he is positive that the imam is still alive.

In an interview with AL-NAHAR newspaper in Paris, to be published today, Rohani said that he had received a verbal message from Imam al-Sadr yesterday telling him that the imam is well aware of his efforts. Rohani said the message was conveyed by a middleman.

UNRWA Director Appeals for Hostages' Release

NC121645 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] UNWRA's director in Lebanon, Per Olof Hallquist, has appealed to the kidnappers of UNRWA employees William Jorgensen and Jan Stening for their release. He warned that their continued abduction will jeopardize the future of UNWRA and will harm all others associated with UNRWA in the area.

Following his meeting today with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Fu'ad al-Turk, Hallquist said that he does not know what is preventing the release of the two UNRWA employees. He declined to answer a question about their whereabouts because, as he put it, he did not want to put their lives in danger.

Replying to another question, Hallquist said that Nasirite organization leader Mustafa Sa'd and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, as well as Lebanese, Syrian, and Arab League officials, have promised to work for the release of the two employees. He added that 'Arafat insists on their release. However, he said, it is not possible for anyone to order the kidnappers to release the two hostages.

Two Staff Members Recalled

NC122049 Paris AFP in English 2038 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 12 (AFP)—The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Friday recalled two of its foreign staff from Lebanon, one week after the abduction of two Scandinavian relief workers.

Pennti Uri, a Finn, and Rolf Andersson, a Swede, were transferred to UNRWA's provisional office in Larnaca, Cyprus, the agency's spokesman Niall Kiely said.

He said the pair would join other foreign employees who had left Lebanon following the abduction February 5 in southern Lebanon of Swede Jan Stening and Norwegian William Jorgensen.

According to Mr. Kiely only six foreign relief workers still remain in Lebanon out of 14. UNRWA headquarters in Vienna confirmed the report.

The announcement of a reduction in UNRWA's ranks came after the agency's director-general in Lebanon, Per Olof Hallquist warned of sanctions if Mr. Stening and Mr. Jorgensen were not released soon. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss Repeats Condemnation

NC131128 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] So far there have been no new developments in the case of the kidnapped Norwegian and Swedish UNRWA employees. Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has reiterated his condemnation of the kidnapping. He said: We are ashamed of the kidnappings taking place among us, kidnappings which have recently increased and expanded. The cowardly, treacherous hand no longer makes exceptions among people. What can we say about people who do not refrain from attacking a humanitarian institution like UNRWA and from kidnapping two officials who came as volunteers to serve as social workers in our country.

Dr al-Huss said: Whoever commits such grave offenses serves the enemies of Lebanon. We are still pursuing the issue of the two kidnapped officials with all the local security authorities, and we hope this issue will have a happy ending.

Dr al-Huss has received a message of great appreciation from the UNRWA director in Lebanon for the sincere support UNRWA has received from Lebanese and Palestinian quarters.

Meanwhile, the residents of Al-Miyah wa Miyah and 'Ayn al-Hulwah camps staged a strike today, which affected all establishments in the camps. The strike was staged in response to a call by the popular committees in the two camps to protest the continued detention of the

two UN employees. A popular demonstration took place in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp during which automobile tires were set on fire at the entrances to the camp.

It has been learned from Palestinian sources that behind-the-scenes contacts are taking place among Palestinian leaders, UNRWA officials, and Norwegian diplomats to ensure a peaceful solution to this case.

'Arafat: Kidnappers Surrounded

NC122153 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that Fatah, the largest group in the Palestinian resistance, has identified the kidnappers of the two UNRWA employees in Lebanon. In a statement to be published in AL-AHRAM's Saturday issue, 'Arafat said that Fatah forces are surrounding the kidnappers but have not stormed their hideout in a forest area near the Al-Awwali River. This action was requested by the Swedish and Norwegian Governments, whose people are being held.

PLO's Khalaf Comments

JN131359 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, 13 Feb (INA)—Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, Fatah Movement Central Committee member, has said that the two UNRWA officials who were kidnapped in Lebanon will be freed within 24 hours and added that those responsible for kidnapping them will be taken to task.

In a statement to the INA correspondent here, Salah Khalaf said that the kidnapping of the two Norwegian and Swedish officials serves no parties other than the agents of the Zionist entity and all enemies of the Palestinian people. He added: Furthermore, this kidnapping operation harms the great role being played by the UNRWA in both Lebanon and the occupied territories. He indicated that joint forces have been besieging the place where the two officials are being kept for 4 days. He added that the joint forces have not attacked the kidnappers for fear of endangering the lives of the two hostages, who were led to a house by a group of armed men. Khalaf described the kidnappers as a group which was harmed by the UNRWA's decision to stop the distribution of aid, and added that the demands made by this group have nothing whatsoever to do with the Palestinian struggle.

The Command of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, met in Lebanon yesterday, discussed the kidnapping incident, and strongly condemned it.

'Security' Cited as Motive

NC140705 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] An international news agency in West Beirut received a statement last night in which the kidnappers of the two UNRWA employees said that the kidnapping was carried out for security reasons, that they will be interrogated for 1 week, and that they will be released if innocent. The one-page statement is handwritten in Arabic and bears the signatures and fingerprints of the two kidnapped UNRWA employees. The signatures and fingerprints have not been confirmed yet. The statement does not indicate the identity of the kidnappers or the reasons for the interrogation.

UNRWA Confirms Signatures

NC140958 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Per Olof Hallquist, UNRWA's director of operations in Lebanon, has confirmed that the two signatures on the statement sent to an international news agency in Beirut yesterday are those of Jan Stening and William Jorgensen, the two kidnapped UNRWA employees.

Kidnapper-'Arafat Rift Noted

NC151607 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] REUTER has quoted security sources as saying that the person who masterminded the kidnapping of UNRWA employees Stening and Jorgensen is accused of assassinating a senior Palestinian official in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. The assassination led to a dispute between this person and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who suspended his membership in the PLO. The same sources add that 'Arafat now intends to reinstate him in the PLO, which increases the prospects for the release of the two Scandinavian hostages.

UN Official Arrives To Discuss Peace, Hostages

NC160952 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Excerpt] UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding arrived in Beirut today. His mission in Beirut concerns efforts being made by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar to prepare for the international conference on peace in the region. His mission will also deal with the issue of the abducted UNRWA employees.

A Norwegian envoy is also expected to arrive in Beirut today to check the fingerprints of hostage William Jorgensen, who was kidnapped with Swedish national Jan Stening in Sidon 11 days ago. [passage omitted]

Group Lists Conditions for Belgian Talks

NC160903 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 13 Feb 88 p 12

[Text] The Fatah-Revolutionary Council released a statement in Beirut yesterday in connection with the detention by one of its groups of five Belgians and three French nationals who were aboard a tourist cruiser off the Gaza coast last November. In the statement the group asserts its readiness to hold direct negotiations with Belgium on their release.

The statement was read by the movement's official spokesman, who said: World news agencies cite the Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman's response to our statement of 2 February 1988, which offers direct negotiations with the Belgian Government. The spokesman expressed surprise at the contents of the statement, noting that communication channels have been open for a long time and that the Belgian Foreign Ministry does not object to opening channels with our organization. The spokesman remarked that everyone knows the telephone numbers of the Belgian Foreign Ministry in Brussels. In light of the foregoing events, I would like to point out that:

1. Our movement welcomes the initiation of direct negotiations, provided that no Jewish delegates or representatives take part on the Belgian side;

2. The Belgian Government has contacted the PLO leadership represented by 'Arafat. A number of Israeli Mossad agents are working in several PLO offices under 'Arafat's personal protection and sponsorship and with his approval. We therefore advise the Belgian Government to stop contacts with persons working for 'Arafat or for offices working under his command because this leadership is hostile to our people's will, revolution, and unity.

Firing at Mufti Qabalan Motorcade Denied

NC141724 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] We have just received the following report: The office of Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan tonight denied that the motorcade in which Mufti Qabalan was traveling came under gunfire in Sidon, contrary to what some private media are reporting.

Canada Warned on Deportation of Palestinian

NC151751 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] The AL-MASHRIQ NEWS AGENCY has quoted diplomatic sources as saying that the Canadian Government has received threats from an unidentified party that its nationals in Lebanon may be kidnapped if Canada agrees to deport Palestinian Mahmud Muhammad 'Isa Muhammad from Canada, or if he is harmed in any way. The sources noted that the Palestinian took part in the hijacking and blowing up of an Israeli aircraft in 1968, as well as in the killing of one of the Israeli passengers onboard the plane. The sources added that the Palestinian entered Canada on the basis of a visa granted to him by the Canadian Embassy in Madrid.

Syrians, Hizballah Erecting Roadblocks

NC121602 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] The Syrian Army has set up a roadblock at the entrance to the southern suburbs, specifically near the airport bridge in the area that separates Al-Ghubayrah and Harat Hurayk from the Kuwaiti Embassy. This area is considered the only entrance leading to the southern suburbs via the airport road.

After the Syrians erected the roadblock and backed it up with vehicles and soldiers, Hizballah also set up a roadblock 50 meters away, near the home of Shaykh Shams al-Din.

According to reports, Hizballah has warned the Syrian forces to withdrew immediately from the area, which is considered under Hizballah control.

9 February Group Claims Attacks on Syrians

NC131039 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi Group of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for attacking a post manned by the Syrian occupation forces in the village of 'Adwi near Al-Minya in the north. The group used RPG's and machineguns in the attack, which left three Syrians wounded. The organization also claimed responsibility for the explosion at the Hamdah gas station in Al-Tabbanah last night. The target of the blast was a Syrian occupation army position commanded by Syrian First Lieutenant Usamah.

Further Attack on Syrians

NC161104 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for detonating an explosive device in a Syrian post and roadblock in Al-Baddawi. The explosion killed a Syrian soldier and wounded others.

Israeli Planes, Gunboats Around Sidon, Camps

NC122116 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over the city of Sidon and its camps and over Al-Zahrani at approximately 2200 tonight, dropping flares. Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats were sighted off the coast in this area.

Mock Raids Reported

NC132020 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli fighter planes staged mock raids over Sidon and its suburbs from 1700 until 1930 today, dropping flares and thermal ballons. They later staged similar raids over Al-Nabatiyah.

Further Overflights Cited

NC140825 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over the city of Sidon and the nearby Palestinian camps at 0930 today, drawing antiaircraft fire. Palestinian positions have been on a state of maximum alert since the Israeli warplanes' mock raids last night over 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah. The warplanes extended their sorties to Beirut and the mountain at around 0940.

Amal Releases 6 Palestinian Detainees 13 Feb

NC132021 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] This afternoon the Amal Movement released six Palestinians it had been detaining. They were handed over at the house of Eng Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Popular Nasirite Organization, in the presence of Al-Hajj Muhammad Salih, the Amal Movement's official in Sidon.

Junblatt Expresses Support for Palestinians

NC121623 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Speech by PSP leader Walid Junblatt at 12 February rally in B'aqlin in support of the Palestinian people's uprising—recorded]

[Text] My comrades in the Lebanese nationalist movement and in the Palestinian revolution: The Palestinian Arab people's revolution in Palestine asserts inevitable facts and raises questions which are impossible to ignore.

One fact is that there will be no peace or stability in the Middle East unless the Palestinian Arab people are given their right to self-determination through the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. All Arab and international conferences which attempt to overlook this fact are only prolonging the crisis.

Another fact is that the PLO has been and will continue to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Any other formula which neglects this fact is definitely doomed to failure. Moreover, any Arab solidarity which does not fulfill its political and material duties to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian Arab people in their heroic stance is of no value or meaning.

One of the bitter facts is that the camps war in Lebanon could have been stopped long ago. Today we can see the futility of this war, which has torn apart the nationalist ranks. The whole of Palestine resembles Shatila and neither will fall. The only way to continue the confrontation with Israel and its agents—the Phalangists and the [South Lebanese] Army—is through this explicit national Lebanese-Palestinian alliance. This alliance also constitutes, when necessary, support for the strugglers inside the occupied Arab territories.

We can summarize these questions with one big question: How much longer will the Arab people remain captive and chained with fetters? How much longer will democratic freedoms remain subject to [intelligence] organs and bats of the night? How much longer will the executors' swords keep killing and slaying on behalf of meaningless ideologies or on behalf of Palestine [words indistinct]? [applause] The Palestinian people will survive and the tyrants' life is (?short).

Speaker Al-Husayni Departs for Damascus

NC131218 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, left for Damascus this morning in response to an invitation from Syrian officials.

Reportage on Visit by Afghan Foreign Minister

Arrives in Damascus

JN140747 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, member of the Political Bureau of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and Afghan minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus yesterday evening on a visit to Syria.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the assistant foreign minister, the director of the Asia desk at the Foreign Ministry, the protocol director, the Afghan ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA, 'Abdul Wakil said he will deliver a message from Afghan President Najibullah to President Hafiz al-Asad. 'Abdul Wakil praised the relations of friendship which bind the Afghan and the Syrian Arab people and their common struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

The Afghan minister condemned the barbaric actions the Zionist forces are perpetrating against Arab citizens in the occupied territories. He reiterated his country's solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people's struggle to regain their legitimate right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state. He said he is confident in the Arab people's inevitable victory.

'Abdul Wakil is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Assistant Foreign Minister (Muhammad Safi Bakhdo), and the Foreign Minister's Office Director Mawakil.

Received by Al-Asad

JN141447 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abdul Wakil, Afghan minister of foreign affairs and a member of the Political Bureau of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, and his accompanying delegation at 1215 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Afghan ambassador in Damascus. 'Abdul Wakil conveyed a message to President al-Asad from Afghan President Najibullah on the situation in Afghanistan and efforts to settle it. The talks also centered on developments in Afghanistan toward stability and national reconciliation.

Meets With Al-Shar'

JN141719 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Damascus, 14 Feb (SANA)—This morning Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received 'Abdul Wakil, Afghan minister of foreign affairs and member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Political Bureau. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; the assistant foreign minister; the director of the Foreign Ministry's Asia Department; the Afghan assistant foreign minister; and the Afghan ambassador in Damascus. They discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan and ways to promote relations between Syria and Afghanistan.

Jordanian Prime Minister Arrives in Damascus

JN141140 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived in Damascus at noon today. He was received at the airport by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and a number of ministers.

Meets Al-Asad, Departs

JN141844 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i at 1400 today with Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in attendance. Al-Rifa'i gave a letter from His Majesty King Husayn to his excellency the president. They discussed regional developments, the uprising of our kinfolk in the occupied land, and current contacts with certain parties at the international level. The meeting was interrupted by a working lunch hosted by his excellency the president.

Al-Rifa'i left Damascus at 1800 today. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi was on hand at the airport to see him off, as were Cabinet ministers and Jordan's ambassador in Damascus.

Australia's Hayden Meets Al-Asad, Departs

JN131723 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] At noon today his excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received William Hayden, Australia's foreign and trade minister, and his accompanying delegation. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was present at the meeting. They talked about regional developments, the Palestinian uprising in occupied Arab land, and the need to achieve a just and comprehensive peace through a UN-sponsored international conference.

The Australian minister and Mrs Hayden left Damascus later in the afternoon, completing a 3-day official visit to the country. On hand at Damascus airport to see them off were the foreign minister and Mrs al-Shar' and the Australian ambassador.

In a predeparture statement to SANA, Hayden said his discussions with Sryian officials ranged over the Mideast, the Palestinian problem, Lebanon, and the Gulf. He also discussed bilateral economic and trade exchange,

especially in agriculture and animal wealth, and diamond extraction. He criticized the behavior of Israeli military forces and their repression of the population of the occupied Arab land.

Al-Asad Receives Burkinabe Envoy, Message

JN131234 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] At 1020 today President Hafiz al-Asad received (Arba Dyalo), envoy of Burkinabe President and Premier Blaise Compaore. (Dyalo) conveyed to the president a written message from President Compaore. Talks revolved around bilateral relations, as well as Arab and African relations.

Al-Shar' on U.S. Initiative for Mideast Peace

JN131955 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stressed that any Mideast settlement must include provisions for total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab land and the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including the right to self-determination and to an independent state. Answering questions from correspondents of the newspapers BIG and THE AUSTRALIAN, who were accompanying the Australian foreign minister, Al-Shar' added that he does not think there is an American initiative, properly speaking. The impression we have gained from Murphy's recent, lengthy talks in Damascus is that the U.S. Administration has some as yet not fully developed ideas, Al-Shar' said. They are interested in ascertaining the thinking of Syria and the other parties concerned, the foreign minister added.

Al-Shar' said that although the Americans are saying they want a comprehensive Mideast settlement, we have gained the impression that the U.S. Administration still thinks in terms of partial solutions. We made it absolutely clear that we are against partial solutions. Experience has taught us that rather than produce a settlement, partial solutions further complicate things in the region, Al-Shar' said.

We have also discovered that the U.S. Administration is interested more in circumventing the uprising in the occupied Arab land than in finding a just solution to the Palestinian people's problem, the foreign minister said. Syria, he added, wants a UN-sponsored international conference attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council plus all the parties concerned and vested with real powers rather than being a mere umbrella. Any departure from these principles, he said, can only heighten regional tension and complicate an already vexed state of affairs. The foreign minister indicated that, contrary to what some think, Syria is not alone in its position on that point. He said the Arabs had decided at the Fes summit and the recent Amman summit that these principles and requirements are absolutely necessary for any just, comprehensive settlement.

Al-Shar' declared that the Palestinians, the Syrians, and the entire Arab nation categorically reject an acceleration of Palestinian autonomy divorced from the proposed international peace conference. A return to the Camp David framework would be a grave mistake, which, hopefully will not be repeated by any party, he said.

Al-Shar' Meets With Soviet Ministry Official

JN151748 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] This afternoon Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the USSR Foreign Ministry. Nasir Qaddur, state minister for foreign affairs; Diya'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; Dr Jabr al-Kafri, chief of the Eastern Europe desk; and the USSR ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. They discussed the Mideast and the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied land.

The sides shared the view that the uprising emphasizes an absolute rejection of the Israeli occupation and adherence to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. They also shared a rejection of partial, separate solutions and agreed on the need for a proper UN-sponsored international conference vested with real powers and grouping the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties concerned.

TISHRIN Cited on 'Failure' of Murphy Mission

JN111229 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1132 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Damascus, 11 Feb (SANA)—This morning the newspaper TISHRIN commented on the failure of Murphy's tour of the region. The paper asserted that this failure is not only because Murphy does not carry a plan which has definite outlines, but is mainly because the Palestinian uprising has snatched the initiative.

TISHRIN added there was a time when the success of U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East was derived from reassurance that the initiative was in Israeli hands and also from the Arabs' political fragmentation. The paper affirmed that the Arab people's uprising in the occupied territories has changed many stands. As a result of the uprising, those who receive orders from Washington have lost their wager. These people were doing their utmost to absent the Palestine question, the Arabs' basic and central cause.

TISHRIN pointed out that the uprising has also exposed the statements made by the Palestinian right wing on what should or should not be done to stop the uprising and resolve the Palestine question. These statements violate the red line drawn by the Palestinian National Charter. They also lack credibility because they are unable to commit the Palestinian people.

Concluding, the paper stressed that the uprising has managed to strongly impose the Palestinian national will on the calculations of all those who tried to ignore, absent, and cancel this will. The uprising has also embarrassed the Zionist ranks and removed all the outlines of the U.S. action plan.

Commentary Urges U.S. To 'Reexamine' Position

JN131655 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] According to an official announcement in Washington, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is to come to the Mideast after talks in Moscow with the object of what Washington called advancing the peace process. Shultz' trip will follow that of his assistant for Mideast affairs, Richard Murphy, who presented the American thinking against the backdrop of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation prior to addressing the crisis. This American interest in the affairs of the region is bound up with the uprising, which Israel's barbaric repressive methods have failed to quell more than 2 months after it erupted. The American interest also mirrors mounting international interest in the situation in the occupied land and the Mideast crisis, coupled with heavy international pressures for convening a UN-spoonsored international conference to work out a solution.

Coming a year after a virtual absence of serious international moves to solve the Mideast crisis, the renewed American interest is a signpost that the crisis is perforce becoming a priority item on the agenda of the U.S. Administration. The term peace process is nothing new to the U.S. Administration. It originated in the Camp David process, painted by Washington as a peace process, eventually delivering neither peace nor a solution. It turned out to be merely a partial, separate deal that has further aggravated a critical regional situation and hampered UN and other international efforts to enforce UN resolutions on the Palestinian and Mideast problems. If the fresh U.S. moves aim to resuscitate the Camp David process, which has met with abysmal failure, they are also doomed, since separate, partial deals that are in conflict with the letter and spirit of UN resolutions have been rejected, cannot address the Mideast problems, and are out of step with the will of the majority of the world's countries.

We are not against talking peace, but we cannot help but ask the question: what peace? Is it the kind of peace that triggered the invasion of Lebanon, Israel's inordinate defiance of UN resolutions and the UN Charter, and its reneging on even its self-rule plan envisaged by the Camp David accords? Or is it a just, comprehensive peace, attainable only through an overall settlement on the lines of UN resolutions, specifically an Israeli pullout from all of the occupied Arab land and assurance of the national rights of the Palestinian people? If Shultz' statement to representatives of Arab-American organizations dismissing the principle of self-determination is anything to go by, his mission will be shrouded in clouds and suspicion and will strip some of the idea that Murphy brought to the region of their positive contents.

Palestinian self-determiantion is one of two prerequisites for establishing just peace and solving the underlying crisis in the region. The second well-known stipulation called for by UN resolutions is Israel's complete withdrawal from all Arab territories it conquered during and since the 1967 aggression. Those who discount these absolutely necessary stipulations for a just peace cannot possibly be seeking peace in earnest but must be working to perpetuate aggression and occupation, to reward the aggressors, and to entrench the real problem, thus keeping alive a flashpoint and an ever-present threat of war, which no one can afford to ignore.

Those who are interested in a just peace ought not to pursue it tentatively and piecemeal, but work their way through the relevant UN resolutions, rather than seek to save an occupying force caught up in a crisis from which it does not know how to extricate itself. They will want to admit that an international conference is the appropriate vehicle and that a comprehensive solution involving all the parties concerned is the real aim, away from maneuvers, political ambushes, and separate and partial deals.

Secretary Shultz is one of the senior U.S. officials who has experienced the setbacks suffered by American Mideast policies thanks to Washington's total bias toward Israel, its aggression against the Palestinian Arab people and Lebanon, its occupation of Arab territory, and its rebelliousness against UN resolutions. Shultz is necessarily well conversant with the fundamental problems of the Mideast and well aware that the old American approaches—adverse to a UN and Soviet involvement in any solution and built on separate, partial deals and rewarding aggressors—are not good for addressing the problems of the region and keep the United States from playing a positive, influential role in reactivating the peace process.

As the United States embarks on an era of East-West detente, it is in its best interests to reexamine its position on the Mideast crisis, taking the long view of a just, durable, and comprehensive peace. Failing that, the new American moves will fare no better than their performance with Camp David and the 17 May agreement in Lebanon.

TISHRIN Cited on Iraq's 'Blind Hatred'

JN131302 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1120 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Damascus, 13 Feb (SANA)—TISHRIN has expressed its astonishment at the Iraqi regime which wants to demolish pan-Arab security and hit at any Arab action or political move prompted by the feeling of danger surrounding the Arab nation. In its editorial this

morning the paper said the Syrian move, which was prompted by a noble pan-Arab motive and a deep sense of responsibility to rectify the Arab situation, has agitated the Iraqi regime and made it burst into blind hatred against Syria. Therefore, it tried to undermine every effort aimed at returning things to their normal course in relations between Iran and the Gulf countries.

The paper said the Iraqi regime went mad when it felt the nobleness of the Syrian endeavor, while it was planning and insisting on driving all Arabs into a foolish struggle and a destructive war with Iran—a wicked and crazy scheme harmonious with the wishes of Israel and the dreams of the United States in the region.

The paper added that the fact that the Iraqi regime is directing its poison at Syria shows the extent of its indignation after Syria took the initiative in the Gulf question on the basis of the pan-Arab interest which demands an objective rearrangement of the priorities in our homeland so that any marginal dispute would move to the rear stage and the Arab-Israeli conflict would preoccupy a leading position in the nation's interests.

TISHRIN stressed that the Arab-Zionist conflict is basically different from the fabricated dispute with Iran which the Iraqi regime triggered with the aim of diverting the nation's attention and efforts to the backyard of the struggle in a way that satisfies the wishes of both Israel and the United States.

Concluding its editorial the paper emphasized that the Iraqi regime's renewed campaign against Syria is nothing but an attempt to affect the purity of the Syrian pan-Arab stand and its well-known genuine commitment to shake the belief in the firmness of these commitments, especially since Syria is, objectively, the basic supporter of the uprising in the occupied territories. The uprising has, indeed, been born under the revolutionary Syrian cover.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Iraqi 'Rabid Campaign'

JN140907 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Feb 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Hibernation of the Mind," AL-THAWRAH says: Saddam Husayn's regime has submerged Iraq in a fathomless sea of blood and tears. It seeks to put the Arabs into this sea. This regime has bequeathed many calamities to the proud and patient Iraqi people and now seeks to spread them not only to the Arabs of today, but also to future Arab generations. Above all this, this regime pours its wrath and hatred on all those who oppose its bloody behavior.

That's why this regime waged a rabid campaign of slander, misinformation, and attacks against Syria because it refused to bless its policy and exposed the perils its behavior and actions pose to the Arab struggle.

What Syria has done so far has prevented the Arabs from experiencing a hellish catastrophe which will have dire consequences. Syria has spared no effort to extinguish the fire of the war from the very first moment of its eruption. Syria has also worked to contain this mad fire and prevented it from spreading to other Arab areas. Syria has foiled the scheme seeking to relegate the Zionist danger and the Palestinian cause to second place and replace them with a protracted bloody conflict with Iran.

Syria has warned the Arabs against falling into this trap under the cover of the implementation of the Collective Arab Defense Pact. Syria has also exploited its good relations with Iran in service of the primary Arab cause. It is no longer a secret that as a result of Syria's efforts, the Gulf region so far has been unharmed by the tragedies of war and the wave of national hatred between the Arabs and Iran receded and has been replaced by sentiments of understanding and relations of good neighborliness.

If the Iraqi regime believes its outburst of rage and its frenzied media and political campaign can make things go backward it will be committing a great mistake. All the Gulf brothers are convinced that the policy of confrontation with Iran is a perilous and destructive policy. For this reason, they replaced it with the policy of understanding and normal relations. It will be impossible for the Iraqi regime to impose on the Gulf countries something they do not want and which conflicts with their national and pan-Arab interests.

From this premise, we say the march of understanding with Iran will proceed in firm and confident steps and that the Iraqi regime's efforts to hamper this march will not succeed. The Iraqi regime will also find it difficult to drag the Arabs into its mad adventure. The past 8 years have shown that Arab countries do not wish this. The campaigns of slander will not change this reality.

If the Iraqi regime, in line with its previous stands, seeks to replace the pan-Arab struggle against Zionism with a conflict with Iran, this policy will not succeed. The proof of what we say is that despite the passage of many years of the Gulf war, the Arab masses still view Palestine as their primary cause. The Palestinian masses also continue to believe it is possible to triumph and achieve liberation. That's why our masses in the occupied territories carried out their uprising, thus foiling all the conspiracies that were concocted to liquidate the Palestinian cause.

If the Iraqi regime believes its unjust campaigns against Syria may influence Syria's stand, it will be committing a very grave mistake. Events have demonstrated that pressures only increase the strength and the courage of Syria and its leader. Syria has been subjected to many campaigns that were waged by forces which are 10 times stronger than the Iraqi regime. In spite of this, Syria has not budged from its firm pan-Arab stands.

The Iraqi regime's problem lies in the fact it refuses to view things as they are and to learn lessons from the realities on the ground. These realities show that the Arabs are not for antagonizing Iran and entrenching their hostility toward it. The Arabs support the establishment of good relations with Iran based on cooperation and good neighborly relations. The Iraqi regime's lies will not check such a trend which forcefully cleaves its way through the Arab political reality.

Afghanistan

Resistance To Participate in Interim Government

BK121254 Hong Kong AFP in English 1234 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Feb 12 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance is ready to share cabinet posts in an interim government with Muslims now working for the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul, according to alliance leader Yunis Khalis.

The mujahidin alliance agrees to share ministerial and important administration posts with pro-resistance refugees and Muslims in President Najibullah's regime, Mr Khalis said in an interview with the FRONTIER POST newspaper in Peshawar.

He did not say in what proportion the posts would be allocated, but he said the rebels would fill the roles of head of state and premiers.

Mr Khalis, who leads the coalition of seven resistance groups based in Peshawar, stressed that Kabul's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) could not be represented in the future government except through "Muslims" in the party.

The United Nations' special envoy on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, had approved the idea of an interim government in Kabul, Mr Khalis said.

The rebel leader added that the alliance had also "outlined" how such a government should be formed. But he said that in the interests of his organization, he could not divulge the information.

The guerrillas continue to refuse to recognize talks in Geneva between Afghanistan and Pakistan on the Afghan conflict. [passage omitted]

Coalition Government Not Linked to Geneva Talks

LD132043 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Feb 88

[BAKHTAR commentary]

[Text] The recent statements by Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on new and principled stances and initiatives by their two countries concerning a rapid solution to the situation around Afghanistan have given a fresh impetus to the Geneva talks. They are a manifestation of the honest inclination and the constructive, flexible, and decisive stands of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union for ending the fratricidal war in Afghanistan and insuring lasting peace and security in the region.

In these statements, a date for starting the return of the limited Soviet contingents from Afghanistan over a 10-month timeframe has been set, with the issue of returning the main part of these continents in the first stage noted. No other precondition has been set concerning the return of the limited Soviet contingents, and it is not linked with the issue of forming a coalition government.

A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY political commentator writes in this respect: This principled stand, not linking the return of the limited Soviet military contingents with the formation of the future coalition government in the Republic of Afghanistan, is completely lawful and understandable. This is a domestic issue of the country, a decision which depends on the Afghan people themselves.

The Geneva talks will be held between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Their aim is to resolve the issue of the situation around Afghanistan. In the talks, four basic issues—the end of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, the presentation of international guarantees on its nonresumption, the voluntary return of emigrants, and the return of the limited Soviet contingents from Afghanistan—have been identified. They have no direct link with the formation of a coalition government.

Under these conditions, with the date for starting the return of Soviet forces from Afghanistan set for a short period of 10 months, no further pretexts will remain to delay the signing of the Geneva agreements. Any effort by Pakistani leaders to delay the signing of the agreements completed in Geneva and to link them with the formation and type of coalition government in Afghanistan, will be regarded as another sign of that country's inclination to continue its interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and to find an excuse to disturb all the efforts by the United Nations to find a peaceful solution to the situation around Afghanistan.

The Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have announced many times that if an agreement is reached sooner in the Geneva talks, then the start of the Soviet forces withdrawal from Afghanistan could take place sooner.

At present, the responsibility for any delay in the signing of the Geneva agreement will rest, not on the shoulders of the Afghan and Soviet sides, but on the shoulders of Pakistan, and will be the fault of that country's leaders, who by delaying the signing of the Geneva agreement will delay the return of the limited Soviet military contingents from Afghanistan.

The world has focused its eyes on the achievement of constructive agreements in the Geneva negotiations. Without doubt, the signing of the Geneva agreement—the basic material of which has been completed and prepared—simultaneously with a real end to interference

in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, will prepare favorable conditions for a return to peace and provide for the solution of other issues related to the situation, including the formation of a coalition government in which all the opposition forces might also participate.

Also, a complete end to interference will make it possible for all Afghans to resolve their issues and problems with common sense, in an acceptable Afghan style, and by peaceful means. The bitter experience of the years of war, bloodshed, and fratricide has shown to each Afghan that its continuation has not contributed to the solution of issues and disagreements, but has intensified them and will make the situation in the region tense. Common sense and new political thinking demand that disagreements be solved, not by military means, but through dialogue and negotiations.

The national reconciliation policy has prepared conditions for all Afghans inside the country and Afghan emigrants, including all the opposition forces, to resume an honorable life in the country. They will be able to build and achieve progress in their common homeland and to play a valuble role in the political, economic, social, and cultural spheres in their country by keeping their ideas, beliefs, and ideology, which will be manifested by true democracy, within the framework of a free, independent, nonaligned, and neutral Afghanistan.

The irrelevant disagreements by the Pakistani leaders and those extremist opposition forces, who consider their private interests above the interests of the people of the country, should not be allowed to trample over the sacred and joint aims of the millions of human beings of our country, as well as of the neighboring countries of Afghanistan, which desire insured nationwide peace, peaceful coexistance, and lasting peace and security in the region.

In the present international situation, the achievement of a peaceful solution to the situation around Afghanistan will stand out as an outstanding example of resolving regional conflicts and removing hot spots of tension in other parts of the world. This is a golden chance and opportunity. History will forever condemn all those who create obstacles to this opportunity.

Political Solution, Soviet Withdrawal Examined

LD130730 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 11 [date as received] BAKHTAR—A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The statements of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and that of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU CC, on the solution of the situation around Afghanistan were enthusiastically hailed by the people of Afghanistan as well as those of the world. The reasons for such an enthusiastic welcome are inherent in the fact that the leaders of both countries have shown wiseness and providence.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the government of the Soviet Union have agreed that, provided that the Geneva agreements are signed on March 15, 1988, the withdrawal of Soviet troops will start on May 15, 1988 and will be completed within a period of 10 months. As regards the phasing of the withdrawal, it would be acceptable for the Afghan side that a relatively great portion of the troops be withdrawn in the first phase of the time-frame for the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

These decisions and accords are clear manifestations of the powerfulness, wiseness and providence of the Republic of Afghanistan as well as one of the dimensions of the policy of national reconciliation for ensuring peace in the country. The Soviet Union has also given its firm support to the policy of national reconciliation emanating from the new political thinking, which can be turned to as an example of solving of regional conflicts.

The question of the withdrawal of the limited contingents of Soviet troops from Afghanistan is directly linked with the cessation of interference and the cessation of the sending of military hardware and equipment to the extremist groups opposing the Afghan state.

Right now, the military contingents of the Soviet Union do not exist in 13 provinces of Afghanistan for the reason that the majority of the people have joined the policy of national reconciliation there and cooperate with the state in the implementation of national reconciliation.

Najibullah's statement stresses that Afghanistan is an independent, non-aligned and sovereign country. It is only Afghans who have determined and continue to determine the destiny of their country.

No one, other than Afghans, can settle the Afghan problems. Likewise, the statements by Mikhail Gorbachev reaffirm the same position and emphasize that the establishment of coalition government is entirely a domestic issue and nobody holds the right to dictate it on Afghans.

The Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have explicitly expressed their opposition to any armed conflicts because armed conflicts not only spoil the atmosphere in one country but it will do so in all regions and in the neighbouring countries as well.

Goodwill, good political determination are needed for the solution of the situation around Afghanistan. These are the very facts reflected in the statements of the leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union vis-a-vis the solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

Now, it is up to the responsible approach of the opposite side that with what sense of responsibility, realism and providence they are looking at the issues.

The statements have stressed that if there appear political statesmen, states and circles to obstruct the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan, then its grave consequences will certainly rest with them.

'Amanuddin Amin Comments

LD150741 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Kabul, February 14, BAKHTAR—The people all over Afghanistan demonstrate their strong satisfaction to the statements issued by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, and M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU CC, on the occasion of the forthcoming Geneva talks for the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

In this connection, Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, said to a BAKHTAR correspondent that the recent statements of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union on the starting date for the return of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan and ten months time-frame for its withdrawal is the manifestation of the policy of national reconciliation and the new political thinking.

These statements, he added, opened new horizons of peace before the Afghans and inhabitants of the region. The Afghans are expecting the other side to take advantage of this opportunity and to approach it with a sense of responsibility and realism and to fulfill its role in the peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Rebels Kill Information Office Head in Peshawar

LD121724 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] BIA reports that Sayyed Baha'uddin Majruh, head of the Afghan Information Office in Peshawar, was killed last night as a result of a criminal attack by armed men in Peshawar city.

Through performing a mediatory position in resolving the differences between groups in Peshawar, Professor Majruh hoped that differences could be resolved in a peaceful manner. This stand caused the Afghan extremists' chieftains entrenched in Peshawar to execute their evil plan against Prof Majruh.

This evil action against Prof Sayyed Baha'uddin Majruh, which took place as a result of the Afghan extremist chieftains blind, obstinate stand on reconciliation and compromise between Afghans, exposes the profound internal differences between the extremist groups. This once again proves that the extremists' chieftains will not even refrain from shedding the blood of academic and cultural figures who cooperate with them.

Pakistan Envoy Summoned Over Bombing Charges

LD151703 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] The Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned this morning to the Foreign Ministry, where the deputy head of the First Political Section made the following points to him:

The Pakistani Government has claimed that Afghan artillery forces fired over the area 2 km north of Chaman on 5 January. It has also claimed that on 25 January between 0700-0800 two Afghan aircraft dropped a bomb in [name indistinct] region, Bajawar Agency.

The relevant authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan, following investigation and studies, consider this sort of baseless claim by the Pakistani Government to be far from the truth. The Republic of Afghanistan resolutely rejects these claims and demands that the Pakistani authorities end such groundless accusations, which do nothing but aggravate the situation in the border regions.

'Extremists' Fire Missiles at Qandahar Province

LD151702 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Extremist groups have carried out a shocking anti-Islamic and inhumane crime by firing surface-to-surface missiles from the other side of the border on the areas around Spin Buldak district, Qandahar Province.

A BIA military correspondent reports that the extremist groups have recently fired around 700 surface-to-surface missiles over the areas around that district. As a result of a few missiles fired over the residential areas, one of our compatriots was martyred and hundreds of others were injured. The injured were sent immediately to the hospital for treatment.

The report adds that a mosque and a school were also destroyed and several houses were damaged.

Bangladesh

Violence Marks Anti-Government Strike, Elections

Clashes, Bomb Blasts Noted

BK131457 Hong Kong AFP in English 1438 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 13 (AFP)—Several people were injured in clashes and bomb-blasts here Saturday as an anti-government strike virtually paralysed the capital and other cities, hospital sources and police said.

Meanwhile, the unofficial death toll from violence during fraud-marred local elections Wednesday rose to 132 with newspapers here reporting that 11 more people had died from their injuries Friday.

There were also reports of continuing clashes in the countryside. No details were immediately available.

A police official in Mirpur, a Dhaka suburb, said at least five people were injured early Saturday when opposition picketers hurled a bomb into a state-owned bus in the district.

A Mirpur resident, contacted by telephone, said several home-made bombs had gone off in the area Saturday. He could not say if any damage was caused.

Hospital sources said several people had been treated for injuries received during clashes or from bomb-blasts during the dawn-to-dusk strike.

A doctor at Dhaka Medical College Hospital told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that at least six patients, three of them in critical condition, had been admitted to the hospital for treatment of bomb-blast injuries.

The work stoppage was called by major opposition parties as part of their campaign to disrupt March 3 parliamentary elections and force President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to resign.

The strike is due to resume at dawn Sunday.

Picketers also stoned and damaged several state-owned buses, set fire to two motor rickshaws in old Dhaka and set fire to a motorcycle near Dhaka University, while in the Bijoynagar District police arrested two activists after using batons to break up a small procession of students, witnesses said.

Official confirmation of the arrests was not immediately available.

In many areas, tyres on rickshaws were deflated, a spokesman for the government bus corporation said. He said about 90 buses were operating along city routes, but all district and inter-city services were suspended till evening.

A railway spokesman said train services were normal in most parts of the country. An exception, he said, was in the western city of Rajshahi where university students pulled up tracks Friday night, disrupting services.

In the port city of Chittagong, an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent said vehicles there were off the roads, markets and businesses closed and banks and offices open with fewer staff during the strike Saturday. Some work was continuing at the harbor, the correspondent said.

Picketers had set up road blocks with burning tyres in some parts of the city but no major incidents were reported as police patrolled streets, he said.

The strike Saturday was the seventh called since the beginning of the year by the opposition, led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Begum Khaleda Zia and the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed and including 19 other parties.

Mr. Ershad, who has refused to step down, has set fresh parliamentary elections for March 3 and vowed to go ahead with them despite an opposition boycott. Anti-election action has been banned.

Nationwide Strike Continues

BK140856 Hong Kong AFP in English 0840 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 14 (AFP)—Police clashed with students Sunday and anti-government marches were held here as Bangladesh entered the second day of an opposition-called strike, witnesses said.

Only cycle-rickshaws and government buses were seen on the roads, while most shops, businesses, offices and banks remained shut, witnesses said.

Police said two small homemade bombs exploded at Dhaka University campus early Sunday. They reported no injuries or major incidents. But an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent saw students and police throw bricks and other objects at each other in the northeast of the campus. Small processions led by opposition activists paraded city roads.

In the city of Chittagong, an AFP correspondent said the dawn-to-dusk strike drew wide support. Only cycle-rickshaws and police vehicles were on the roads. He said most shops were shut, but there was some activity in the big port.

Sunday is the eighth day of opposition-called stoppages this year.

A government Works Ministry employee injured in a bomb blast Saturday died in hospital Sunday, sparking protests among his colleagues, witnesses said. Noor Mohammad Patwary, 40, and five other people were injured when opposition activists threw a bomb into a bus taking them home after work.

Employees at the Bangladesh Secretariat complex that houses most of the government ministries on Sunday walked out of their offices for a protest march and meeting offering condolences over Mr. Patwary's death, witnesses said. Speakers at the meeting demanded security for government employees working during strikes, the witnesses said.

A mass rally has been planned for Wednesday as part of the three month-old opposition campaign to force President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to resign and to disrupt parliamentary elections scheduled for March 3.

The 21 opposition parties, including Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, have demanded a neutral caretaker government be set up to oversee fair elections. Mr. Ershad, who came to power in a 1982 coup, has refused.

Reports Sunday said three people injured during local election violence Wednesday died in hospital Saturday, pushing the unofficial death toll to 135. Officials have confirmed 85 deaths from polling day violence.

Dhaka newspapers Sunday reported more post-election rural clashes. The ITTEFAQ daily said five people were killed and many injured when violence broke out Friday in rural areas as officials and police tried to pacify the local population.

In northern Gazipur District Saturday, 10 people, including a magistrate, were beaten up by police after six policemen were wounded when a jeep accidentally hit a police patrol, press reports said Sunday.

Opposition Leaders Arrested

BK161028 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 16 (AFP)—Police arrested several top opposition officials in pre-dawn raids on their homes here Tuesday, a day before scheduled anti-government rallies in the capital, opposition party sources said.

Among those arrested were Awami League General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, and two top officials of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Oli Ahmed and Akbar Hussain, both retired colonels, the sources said.

A senior Home Ministry official, queried on the arrests by telephone, said they might have occurred but could not immediately confirm them.

The sources said police also raided the homes of other opposition leaders, including Nasim Ahmed and Amir Hussain Amu of the Awami League and Majedul Huq of the BNP, but the officials were not there.

A relation of Begum Chowdhury told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone that police had arrived at 3 a.m. (2100 GMT Monday) and taken the general secretary to a local police station. She was taken to Dhaka central jail later Tuesday, he said.

The raids came ahead of rallies here Wednesday planned by major opposition groups in their continuing campaign to unseat President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and disrupt next month's parliamentary polls.

Ershad Speaks Out Against Violence, Anarchy

BK141322 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] The Bangladesh president, Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has said that he has always made it clear that violence, malice, and terrorism can never bring welfare to the people, rather it increases the miseries of the people. Violence gives birth to violence only and hinders peace, discipline, and social security. In a condolence message on Sunday on the death of a government employee who was killed during the opposition program in Dhaka, the president said if the anarchic and terroristic activities cannot be checked effectively, its venom will vitiate the whole society. That is why we should be vocal in protesting against violence, he said. President Ershad made a fervent appeal to all the conscious people of the society to build up a strong resistance against these ominous activities and conspiracies. Let us make efforts to root out the politics of killing, terrorism, indiscipline, and anarchy once for all, he said.

Meanwhile, the president ordered to pay 50,000 taka each to the families of one police, one ansar [paramilitary police], and two polling officers who were killed in last Wednesday's local body elections. He also conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the members of the bereaved families and prayed for the peace of the departed souls.

Ershad Views 3 Mar Parliamentary Elections

BK121310 Dhaka General Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] The Bangladesh president has said he is discharging his constitutional responsibility by holding the parliamentary elections on 3 March. He was talking to some Bangladesh freedom fighters who are contesting the elections. They made a courtesy call on him in Dhaka yesterday. President Ershad told them democratic accommodation, tolerance, and understanding were the prerequisites for successful functioning of democracy. There is no scope for obstinacy and personal vendetta in democracy. The president said he sincerely wishes to see the elections held in a free and impartial manner. Whoever gets the mandate of the electorate will decide the national affairs sitting in the parliament. The president said he personally feels that young men should come in the parliament.

Earlier, speaking on behalf of the freedom fighter candidates, the secretary general of the Bangladesh freedom fighters association said they will always play their due role in every national hour of need as they did in the war of liberation.

Prime Minister Assails Opposition's 'Program'

BK121640 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury today said elections are essential for the continuation of the constitutional process and ensuring democratic civil government. He called upon the people to participate in the coming elections and save the country from any constitutional crisis. Speaking as chief guest at the foundation-laying ceremony of the Puran Bazaar bridge in Chandpur today, the prime minister said no one could think of constitutional government by boycotting parliamentary elections. He said some political parties were boycotting parliamentary elections denying the constitutional provisions of holding elections within 90 days from the date of dissolution of parliament. The prime minister raised questions of who could take the responsibility if the elections are not held in due time. The responsibility will obviously fall upon the parties boycotting and threatening to resist elections, he observed.

Referring to the repeated so-called program of some opposition political parties in the name of democratic movement, the prime minister said it was the responsibility of all political leaders to see that the development of the country and normal activities of the people were not disturbed in any way. He said the working class had suffered a lot because of their so-called program.

India

Gandhi Reshuffles Cabinet, Rules Out Snap Polls

BK140834 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Excerpts] There has been a major expansion and reshuffle of the Union Council of Ministers. Four Cabinet ministers, six ministers of state, and six deputy ministers have been inducted. Thirteen of the new ministers were sworn in by the president at a simple ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] this morning. [passage omitted]

The deputy ministers who have been given the rank of minister of state are: Mr Biren Singh Engti and Mr Giridhar Gomango.

The new deputy ministers are: Mr T.L. Baitha, Mr Mahavir Prasad, Mr Rafique Alam, Mr P. Namgyal, Mr Radhakishan Malaviya, and Mrs Sumati Oraon.

Portfolios of other ministers of state are: Mr Janardhana Poojary, rural development; Mrs Krishna Sahi, water resources; Mr L.P. Shahi, education and culture; Mr Shastri, agricultural research and education in the Ministry of Education; Mr Jaffar Sharief, coal; Mr Ramanand Yadav, mines; Mr Shyam Lal Yadav, agriculture; Mr Yogendra Makwana, steel; Mr Gomango, tourism; and Mr Engti, planning and program implementation.

The portfolios of the deputy ministers are: Mr Baitha, food and civil supplies; Mr Mahavir Prasad, railways; Mr Rafique Alam, petroleum and natural gas; Mr Krishna Kumar, information and broadcasting; Mr Namgyal, surface transport; Mr Radhakishan Malaviya, labor; and Mrs Oraon, welfare.

In a chat with newsmen after the swearing-in ceremony, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said the Cabinet expansion aims at restoring the balance which had been upset by a lot of ministers dropping out. He said one or two big states are still not properly represented in the Cabinet.

In reply to a question, Mr Gandhi ruled out the possibility of any snap poll to the Lok Sabha. About Punjab, he said the state is not ready for elections at the moment. He discounted the rumors that the Army interfered in the recent elections in Tripura. He said he has received reports from his party as well as the CPI-M that the Army did not interfere.

About China, the prime minister said there is no easy solution to our problems with that country. However, he thought both countries at the moment have a positive attitude.

New Cabinet Listed

BK141140 Hong Kong AFP in English 1051 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 14 (AFP)—India's Cabinet following a reshuffle Sunday:

Rajiv Gandhi: prime minister, science and technology, atomic energy, space, and external affairs

P.V. Narasimha Rao: human resources development

Narain Dutt Tiwari: finance and commerce

Buta Singh: home affairs

Makhan Lal Fotedar: steel and mines

Krishna Chandra Pant: defence

P. Shiv Shankar: planning and programme implementation

Mohsina Kidwai: urban development (with additional charge of tourism)

J. Vengal Rao: industries

Bhajan Lal: agriculture

Har Kishan Lal Bhagat: parliamentary affairs (with additional charge of information and broadcasting)

Vasant Sathe: energy (with additional charge of communications)

Dinesh Singh: water resources

Bindeshwari Dubey: law and justice

Ram Niwas Mirdha: textiles

Motilal Vora: health and family welfare (with additional charge of civil aviation)

Ministers of state (independent charge):

Rajendra Kumari Bajpai: welfare

Madhavrao Scindia: railways

Jagdish Tytler: labour

Rajesh Pilot: surface transport

Brahm Dutt: petroleum

Z.R. Ansari: environment and forests

Sukh Ram: food and civil supplies Ministers of state:

P. Chidambaram: home, personnel, public grievances, and pensions

K.R. Narayanan: science and technology

K. Natwar Singh: external affairs

Shivraj Patil: defence production

Chintamani Panigrahi: home affairs

P.R. Das Munshi: commerce

R. Prabhu: fertilisers

M.M. Jacob: parliamentary affairs

Santosh Mohan Dev: defence

B.K. Gadhvi: expenditure

Dalbir Singh: urban development

Eduardo Faleiro: banking and economic affairs

H.R. Bhardwaj: law and justice

Janardhana Poojary: rural development

Krishna Sahi: water resources

Margaret Alva: youth affairs, sports, and child development

M. Arunachalam: industrial development

Ramanand Yadav: mines

R.K. Jaichandra Singh: chemicals and petrochemicals

Saroj Khaparde: health

Sheila Dikshit: parliamentary affairs

Sushila Rohatgi: power

Yogendra Makwana: steel

Biren Singh Engti: planning and programme implementation

Giridhar Gomango: tourism

Ajit Kumar Panja: revenue

L.P. Shahi: education and culture

Hari Krishna Shastri: agriculture research and education

C.K. Jaffar Sharief: coal

Shyam Lal Yadav: agriculture

Deputy ministers:

S. Krishna Kumar: information and broadcasting

D.L. Baitha: food and civil supplies

Mahavir Prasad: railways

Rafique Alam: petroleum and natural gas

P. Namgyal: surface transport

Radhakishan Malaviya: labour

Sumati Oraon: welfare

Six New Governors Appointed

BK141342 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Excerpts] There has been a major expansion and reshuffle of the Union Council of Ministers. Four Cabinet ministers, six ministers of state, and six deputy ministers have been inducted. Thirteen of the new ministers were sworn in by the president at Rashtrapathi Bhavan this morning. [passage omitted]

Six new governors were also appointed today. Mr Govind Narayan Singh has been appointed governor of Bihar; Mrs Ramdulari Sinha, governor of Kerala; Mr K.

Brahmananda Reddy, governor of Maharastra; Mr Sukhdev Prasad, governor of Rajasthan; and H.N. Barare, governor of Haryana. Mr P. Vekat Subaya, currently governor of Bihar, has been shifted to Karnataka.

V.N. Sharma To Replace Sundarji as Army Chief

BK160712 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Lieutenant General V.N. Sharma will be the next chief of the Army Staff. He is at present general officer commanding in chief of Eastern Command. An official announcement in New Delhi today said he will take over from General K. Sundarji on his retirement on 30 April this year. Lieutenant General Sharma was commissioned in the Armored Corps in 1950.

Iran

U.S. Helicopters Fired on From Oil Platforms

LD141711 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] The reconnaissance operations of U.S. helicopters over Sirri and Abu Musa Islands and the Salman and Nasr oil platforms in the waters of the Iranian continental shelf were faced with defeat as the result of the vigilance of the fighters of Islam in those regions. One of the operational commanders of the Navy in an interview with IRNA, while announcing the above, said: U.S. helicopters that were flying ahead of a convoy of U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti ships at 2125 on Friday violated Iranian maritime boundaries in the Gulf by engaging in reconnaissance operations over those areas. As the result of the heavy fire of the defensive units stationed on those islands, they were forced to flee.

Referring to the helicopters' deviation from their flight path and their violation of the aerial boundaries of the Salman and Nasr oil platforms, he added: When the U.S. helicopters disregarded our radio messages and warning shots, our units fired directly at them and prevented them from continuing their violations. He stressed: Following the heavy fire of the defensive units stationed on Salman and Nasr oil platforms, the U.S. helicopters fled the region before carring out any operations [qabl as har guneh eqdami].

In this same regard, the spokesman of the War Information Headquarters, in calling the activities of the U.S. helicopters over the waters of the Iranian continental shelf in the Gulf provocative, announced: If such actions are repeated, they certainly will not go unanswered. If such mischievous acts are repeated by the United States, the Islamic fighters are quite prepared to teach another unforgettable lesson to the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf.

19 Injured in Northern Tehran Bombing

LD160945 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA—Ten people were injured and several cars were damaged in a bomb explosion on Shadid Bahonar Street (former Niavaran), northern Tehran Tuesday morning.

The bomb said to have been planted by agents of the world arrogance in an automobile went off at 09:30 local time (06:00 GMT) shattering windows of the nearby homes and shops. A public telephone booth was also damaged in the explosion.

The injured were immediately taken to hospital of whom three were hospitalised and the rest discharged after receiving outpatient treatment.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Leaders

First Round of Talks

LD131125 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy, who is in Tehran, completed his first round of talks with Mr Larijani, deputy foreign minister in charge of international economic affairs. According to this report, important regional and international issues were discussed and the Soviet side expressed its views on these issues.

Mr Petrovskiy once again stressed the anxiety of the Soviet Union concerning the U.S. naval presence in the Persian Gulf and the increased tension in the region resulting from U.S. military policies.

Second Round of Talks

LD131846 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—The second round of talks between visiting Soviet Foreign Minister [as received] Vladimir Petrovskiy and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic and International Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani started here Saturday afternoon.

During the talks, Petrovskiy quoted American officials as saying the U.S. will maintain its military presence in the Persian Gulf, and said the Americans were seeking military bases in the region.

Larijani said in reply that the U.S. is against peace and security in the Persian Gulf but rather favors the continuation of the Iraqi-imposed war.

The deputy foreign minister said that as the Islamic Republic has shown before it will continue its resistance against U.S. bullying and pressure.

Imposition of an arms embargo on Iran will never help end the Iraqi-imposed war but on the contrary will add fuel to the conflict, he warned.

Among other topics discussed by the two was Tehran-Moscow economic and commerical cooperation.

Meets With Velayati

LD141808 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] In a meeting today with Foreign Minister Velayati, the Soviet deputy foreign minister in charge of international affairs, Petrovskiy, expressed his satisfaction with the pace of the expansion of bilateral relations and stated: It is very important that bilateral relations expand in various fields and bilateral and international issues are discussed. He added: We have expressed our anxiety about the increasing U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf. The number and types of U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf are proof that they are not defensive in nature. This is a source of anxiety to us.

On the Afghanistan issue, the Soviet deputy foreign minister emphasized: We have decided to leave Afghanistan. The date for the withdrawal of Soviet forces has been announced as 15 May 1988. We are prepared to withdraw a large part of our forces in the first phase.

Foreign Minister Velayati evaluated as positive the exchange of delegations and emphasized the desirability of expanding and advancing economic and political relations. On the Afghanistan issue, Velayati said: From the beginning, we stated that the Soviet Union should withdraw its forces from Afghanistan. If this action marks the beginning for the Afghan people to take charge of their own destiny, then it would lead to a real solution of the Afghanistan problem. We believe that the mujahedin elements will have a fundamental and decisive role in the future of Afghanistan; we support an independent and nonaligned Afghanistan.

Regarding U.S. moves in the Security Council, Velayati said: For the Security Council to name Iraq as the aggressor would be only just. The United States should not be able to impose its one-sided views on the Council.

Meets With Prime Minister

LD142020 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Mr Vladimir Petrovskiy, deputy for international affairs of Soviet Foreign Ministry, met and conferred with Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this afternoon.

At this meeting the Soviet official amplified the significance of mutual relations and expressed hope that these relations will expand day by day, benefitting from the many fields existing for the cooperation of the two countries.

In this meeting, Prime Minister Musavi welcomed the recent Soviet stance based on the pullout of its forces from Afghanistan and expressed hope that with the pullout of Soviet forces, there would exist the possibility of establishing a nonaligned move based on people's votes. Mr Musavi said: In recent years the hostile feeling of the regional people towards America have been always balanced by the anti-Soviet feelings resulting from your presence in Afghanistan.

Further on Meetings

LD150712 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 15 Feb 88

["Musavi to Soviet Official: Anti-U.S. Sentiments Ebbing as a Result of Soviet Presence"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy, here since Thursday, in a meeting with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Sunday expressed hope that Tehran-Moscow ties may be further expanded.

On Afghan issue Petrovskiy said that his government was aware of many Afghans' longing for non-alignment and viewed it from a positive point of view.

The premier lauded the recent stance of the Soviet Government on withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan and hoped that the pull-out will entail the formation of a non-aligned government based on the will of the Afghans.

He said that in recent years the anti-U.S. sentiments of the people of the region have eased because of Soviet presence in Afghanistan.

On efforts of UN secretary general on the Iraqi-imposed-war the prime minister said that Iran welcomed them and expressed hope that the UN chief will be more active in carrying out the agreements reached while he was in Tehran.

On Iran-U.S.S.R. economic cooperation Premier Musavi said that decision by high-ranking officials of the two countries to implement several major projects will be a major step in this direction.

Petrovskiy also met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday evening during which he expressed satisfaction with upward trend of bilateral relations.

Petrovskiy said his country has expressed concern over increased U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf region.

On Afghanistan issue the Soviet official assured Velayati of Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan adding that May 15 has been set as the date. He added that his country was ready to pull out a major portion of its forces at the first phase of withdrawal.

Velayati emphasising expansion of mutual relations and importance of exchange of delegations said that Iran has stated all along that the Soviet troops must pull out of Afghanistan.

According to Velayati mujahidin will play a crucial and determining role in shaping the future of Afghanistan and said that Iran is for an independent and non-aligned Afghanistan.

On U.S. moves in the UN Security Council Velayati said branding Iraq as the aggressor is the least thing the Security Council can do for dealing out justice, adding that the U.S. should not be allowed to carry out its arbitrary decisions.

Talks With Larijani

LD151730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Vladimir Petrovskiy, the Soviet deputy foreign minister who is in Tehran, held his last round of talks this morning with Larijani, the economic and international affairs deputy in the Foreign Ministry. In the course of this meeting, the two sides discussed most significant issues of mutual interest including disarmament, human rights, and bilateral and regional issues.

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

First Sermon on Jurisconsult Rule

LD122208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1607 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, at Tehran University on 12 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In this sermon, I will refer to two issues: One is the government decrees and the consultative complex [last word as heard]. His holiness the imam, may his blessings continue, has recently issued a decree in this regard. The other issue is Palestine, which is the problem of the day for us.

On the decree of his holiness the imam, I can discuss it in 5 or 10 minutes. We have two kinds of religious tenets. One set consists of religious tenets dealing with people's daily lives. People are goverened by these tenets: men, women, and all those who are obliged to observe them. These are tenets such as physical cleanliness, prayers, zakat [payment of obligatory religious dues], pilgrimage to Mecca, and all actions expressing your obedience to God, as well as contracts. These are theological tenets that have been explicitly written about in the texts, briefly or extensively, either through argument or by fatwa [type of religious ruling] over the past 14, past 12 centuries. These are easily available to us. If we want to understand an issue, we refer to the texts, whether to the text or to the footnotes, or to argumentative texts or to fatwas. This constitutes one part of the tenets.

Another part of the tenets is addressed to the ruler. These are for the rulers. The rulers are the subject of these tenets. Rulers are agents for these tenets and are obligated by them. Rulers in essence are the subject of these tenets. Rulers have duties and powers and there are limits to their authorities. This part [of Islamic theology] is not like the first part, about which in every book on theology or in every religious treatise, or in any argumentation book we may find texts on these tenets, tenets, arguments about them and reasoning. It is not possible for us to refer to Jawaher, to Hadaeq, to Mabsut, [books on Shi'ite theology] or to footnotes.

Short-term interests of society do not require him to tell the people to rise; short-term interests require that even if martial law has been declared, even if you believe that if you go out and may be killed, even then it is forbidden to sit at home. These tenets are different. There is no need for them to be so for 1 day or so.

The problem with these tenets is expertise. You must be fully versed in the situation; you must know the situation, understand the facts, and be able to assess developments. You must perform your assignment very carefully. It is a difficult job to link generalities to specific cases; the difficulty is not the first part but expertise. These are the ruler's duties.

As for the first part [part of religious tenets dealing with prayers and fasting], if we had a mojtahed [qualified theologian] who is well versed in texts—Sunnah, Ijma' [consensus of ulema on a specific matter], and wisdom, as well as in principles of theology and methodology, he could offer us verdicts on this first part even though he did not know whether today is Islamic Republic Day or it is the time of Shah Sultan Hoseyn [a king of the Safavids]; he does not have to know anything about the world outside. He can give verdicts on the first part. [passage omitted]

In the second part [part of religious tenets dealing with politics], we need a mojtahed who is well aware of the times. To be aware of current issues is different from being aware of the texts and the Sunnah. A person who is well versed in the text and Sunnah engages in theological debate, whereas one who is well versed in current events engages in a job requiring expertise.

This is the issue. As far as we semenarians are concerned, the issue is very clear. It is not for us to debate this issue or to create a hue and cry about it. This is a matter of expertise. An expert can seek assistance from other experts according to their own speciality. In the same way a mojtahed may be an expert in the theological sphere. It is not necessary for someone who is a mojtahed in theology to also be a mojtahed in literature. Some people have said that the result is subject to the core of the prefaces, therefore anybody who wants to be a mojtahed in jurisprudence must also be a mojtahed in

theology, in Tafsir [a branch of theology], in mathematics, because there are some areas related to mathematics—astronomy, for example, because iit is linked to mathematics. The task of being a ruler requires expertise. In case the expert is qualified he can be... [Musavi-Ardabili changes thought] This is a problem in this sense. Here we must again pray to God to ask him to keep his eminence immune from all dangers. This graceful and blessed eminence offers guidance whenever we encounter problems and solves the problems so easily.

Our second issue is Palestine. The Palestinians have made qualitative changes in their revolution. They have introduced an element of religion and Islam into their revolution. According to our analysis, the enemy is seemingly in agreement with us and says that this Palestinian revolution is not like the first revolution. It has altered its image; it has reached a turning point. They say this new development is inspired by Iranian fundamentalism. [passage omitted]

Brothers, the Palestinians—Muslim brothers, sisters, old men, women—are now burning at the hands of the enemy who has even cut off their water supply; the enemy has even cut off the food supply being sent to them from the villages.

We have a message for the Palestinians: O brothers, sisters, your fate has been dictated by these mischievious people. Your fate is either death with dignity or life in bondage and shame. [passage omitted]

We—world Muslims, Muslims of Arab countries—we must understand the sensitivity of the situation. The Muslim peoples of Arab countries must force the rulers to stand up against the United States and Zionism to defend the rights of Palestinine against the enemies. If they fail, then Muslims must rise in their own countries and send arms to the Palestinians, provide financial help, and send volunteers. If that fails, then they must damage U.S. and Israeli interests in their own home countries. They must attack and take revenge, and if they cannot do that, they must organize marches and demonstrations.

The revolutionary dynamic nation of Iran stands side by side with the oppressed nation of Palestine, as it stands by any other oppressed nation. This is our religious, humanistic, and legal duty. We do so with all our capabilities. [passage omitted]

Second Sermon on Revolution's Gains

LD122318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1523 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, at Tehran University on 12 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Today is the anniversary of the day when his excellency the imam issued a holy decree on forming the first revolutionary organ, the first organ that was established to guard the revolution. Since that time, this organ has carried out its duty in an excellent manner. Today it is one of the most motivated and useful organs, both on the fronts and behind the lines, as well as in all its assigned duties. This is the [Islamic Revolution] Committee. [passage omitted]

Today is the 2d day of the 10th year of victory of the revolution. At the end of this year, a decade will have passed since the victory of our revolution. If we add up all the good and bad points, the efforts, achievements, and results, and the pain and hardship—losses and damage notwithstanding—what do we have today? A quick and brief summation shows us what we have:

First, thank God, our revolution, society, and ummah are still at the revolution's center of gravity, the leadership of the revolution. This leadership is as popular, decisive, aware, alert, and extraordinarly effective as ever. We have seen how during the past 9 years—equivalent to 90 years or more in actual experience—his presence, watchful eye, orders, shouts, and instructions have solved our problems. There was no problem he could not easily resolve, thanks to God's blessings. This is one of the greatest of God's blessings. We pray to God, Muhammad, Muhammad's kin, and those close to him to preserve his [Khomeyni] blessed being until the revolution's final victory, until all the revolution's problems are resolved. [crowd chants]

Second, after leadership, the second issue is independence. We have lived through 9 years. Today we say proudly, bravely, and unequivocally that we are independent and have been independent for 9 years. We have political, economic, military, and cultural independence. In other words, the slogan of "Neither East nor West"—a wish that came true—was preserved. In that respect, we have not fallen short, not even a little. The world-devouring superpower does not have the independence which you have today. The United States is enslaved by cartels and by the Jews. American policy is not determined by its President; it is determined by others and is imposed on him. He has not [phrase incomplete as heard]. They have their own set of rules. The only country which can claim to be independent in every aspect under this blue sky and on earth is Iran. This is one achievement. We used to be dependent in every aspect; today, in nothing.

Third, conditions in villages and deprived areas regarding water, electricity, telephones, gas, roads, primary and secondary schools, and rural revenues have improved. We have been successful in that respect during the past 9 years; but not 100 percent—perhaps 50 or 55 percent. We have not reached our goal yet. Nevertheless, 50 or 55 percent of the problem has been resolved during the past 9 years. Anyone who is familiar with the villages and villagers knows that this is not an exaggeration.

Fourth, national wealth and the country's resources have been safeguarded from the plundering and pillaging of foreigners. From the very first stages of the victory of the revolution—the first 6 months or a year—all the people's wealth has been in their own hands. Not only has not 1 rial not gone into the pockets of colonialists, imperialists, or exploiters, but some of what was taken from them under the previous regime has been retrieved. Of course, some has not been returned yet. That is a 100-percent achievement.

Fifth, getting rid of arrogance in the society. [sentence incomplete as heard] Our society was full of arrogant people and agents of the previous regime. After the revolution, they were either executed or imprisoned, or they fled with their wives and children. They are now living in disgrace and are begging in the United States, Europe, and other places. [passage omitted] Success in this respect has been perhaps 75 percent. What I am giving are not accurate figures, but rough estimates. There are still persons and properties which have not been accounted for. That figure is 20 or 25 percent. So, in this way we rid ourselves of arrogance.

Sixth, we have ended the existence of political parties affiliated with the East or West: filthy, left- and right-wing minigroups. The country is united now. There is possibly 4 or 5 percent still in the country, in secret, in hiding, and invisible; however, 95 percent of the problem has been solved. We do not have [counterrevolutionaries] in the country any longer.

Seventh, we have amended the country's laws to make them Islamic and to popularize them. From the period of the Revolution Council, then the first term of the Majlis, and then the second term of the Majlis, a great deal of effort was put into this matter. From the time the Consititution was written up to the victory of the revolution, this country's laws were one-sided, reflecting the interests of the arrogant and opposing the interests of the oppressed. Now the reverse is true. Maybe 60 or 65 percent of it has been changed. We still need time for all the laws to be changed.

Eighth, we have subjected the personnel of the state administration and judicial apparatus—Islamic and otherwise—to purges, selections, and admissions. For example, in the judicial branch, about which I am more conversant, out of 3000 or so judges 800 are clergymen; more than 1,000 have been employed since the revolution; and others are from prerevolution times who have remained after several purges. Of course, there have been successes in this respect, but not 100-percent success. [passage omitted]

Ninth, we have blossoming talents and we have made remarkable advances in industries, such as spare parts manufacturing, the production of ammunition, in the military industries, including a foundry for the military and the IRGC, and others. We know that our war effort and our fronts rely to a large extent on our own manufactured items. Without these advances I do not know what would happen to us, given that the world plays tricks on us.

We have ample military experience in various spheres and in warfare. We had armed forces during the former regime, but they did not fight anyone nor had any victories. Because of my age, I remember there was a time when the allied forces entered Iran and we did not wage war. A similar situation occurred again recently in Dhofar [province in Oman], which favored the presence of British troops in order to confront the guerrillas. That lasted a short while. [passage omitted]

The same people, whether they are in the defense and offensive groups, the Ground Forces, the Air Force, the Navy, the Green Berets, and any other group that you care to mention, are standing against the whole world, like lions. A large number of pompous superpower forces arrived in the Persian Gulf amid a hue and cry which deafened the whole world. Today they are stagnating and rotting in the same place and are trying to find a escape route. This is quite shameful as their arrival had about the same effect as the arrival of a mosquito. This shame is due to the presence of the same fighting people from all strata. We rely on God, while our forces are the same men with their small boats. [passage omitted]

Regarding the agricultural sector and those providing agricultural produce, around 14 million people have been added to our population, including Afghans and Iraqis living in Iran, adding 3.5 percent to our population. According to official statistics, 1 million hectares of land has been cultivated from unused lands and 800,000 hectares of temporary land, which once belonged to the arrogant powers, are now controlled by farmers. Successes have been achieved in wheat produce, and rice of Amol-1 and 2 strains.

Tenth, the export and revitalization of the revolution is boosting morale and returning hope to world Muslims. I will not talk about this topic as you have already heard a comprehensive speech on the same theme. This is another achievement of the past 9 years. If today you see that the masses assemble in the mosques of Palestine and that Israel attacks the mosques, and if you see among the revolutionaries clergymen in the front ranks... [Musavi-Ardabili changes thought] They are not revolutionaries of yesterday and today only; it was one way in the past and it is different now [as heard].

These are the results of our revolution during the past 9 years and we can feel their effects now. [passage omitted] I do not believe there is one honorable and decent man who can doubt this comment of mine. [passage omitted] These are the achievements of the revolution.

There are some murmurs from various corners. On the eve of the 10th anniversary, some people have been saying and are still saying that the war is bad, it has

dragged on far too long, it is religiously forbidden, and it is not in our interests. Peace is desired. What are these people saying? Is there anybody who says peace is bad and war is good? To what sort of peace do they refer? An honorable peace which brings dignity and decency, that does not waste the blood of martyrs, that does not negate our achievements, that strengthens our positions? Can anybody refuse such a peace? Against whom we should fight?

These gentlemen do not refer to such a peace but to an unconditional and unbound peace. Furthermore, they want a form of peace under Security Council conditions, one of whose members is the United states. We accepted the Security Council resolution and we said that they should say just one word, that is, the name of the aggressor. They are saying that we should ignore the fact so much blood has been spilled and that they should not utter that one word, considering that those gentleman, the embodiment of corruption, are the aggressors. They do not accept it, but they ask us to make peace. Far worse are those entities of corruption who take shelter under Saddam's rule and say we should accept Saddam's conditions for the sake of a fistful of begged-for bread. They want peace under Saddam's conditions. These people should realize that the marches yesterday and the holding of the 10 Days of Dawn ceremonies were a strong blow, driving home the message that the people have right to speak on our behalf. [crowd cheers]

This was one cry being raised; the other was the hue and cry about freedom on the eve of the elections. What is this and why? Freedom for political parties, speech and expression, publicity, candidacy, speaking publicly, or what? First, the proof of freedom is the very existence of these gentlemen. This is the best proof of freedom. In wartime, no country allows total freedom of expression to a group of protestors who loudly cry out about freedom. If there were no freedom, you would not have been at your own homes; you would have been somewhere else. Your presence. [sentence incomplete as heard] If you want to pretend that you speak on behalf of the people... [Musavi-Ardabili changes thought] The people are the same people who surge through the streets in marches and enthusiastically come forward as war volunters. Are they not the people and are they not Iranians?

Those who say they do not accept velayat-e faqih [vice-regency of the jurisconsult], do they want to speak on behalf of those who feel the same in their hearts? You who must be guaranteed your safety by the government and be taken around in police cars so that the public will not attack you, who has given you the guardianship of the people? I must tell you that if there were absolute freedom combined with riots, freedom for the arrogant powers, freedom for infidels, freedom to spy, then the Tudeh Party members would not be in prisons, the monefeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] would have escaped, and monarchists would not seek shelter. Of course there is freedom. Is this what you want to say? We do not say that the Koran upholds absolute freedom, without shari'a and legal limits; is this what you want? There is not possible and you should rest assured that neither here nor anywhere else does this exist. There should not be anything like this. There was no such thing during the prophet's era. However, freedom within limits and the framework of law and shari'a does exist. There is freedom with [words indistinct] and further freedom in tolerance.

All this exists. Well, we all must respect each other's rights as our own. Praise be to God, the Iranian nation can fight and act in peace. It can assist, donate wealth, vote, and elect. This freedom means that they pave the way and those whom the revolution has pushed aside return and act as they once did.

The third issue concerns the clamor about shortages, problems, official corruption, and so on. There are two or three issues here. Some see the problems and feel hurt, but they do not harbor any bias or ulterior motives. There are some who judge the situation and take note of the war and limitations. They evaluate the previous and present conditions and finally simmer down. There are some who ignore everything and just say whatever they want. Others are biding their time to act in their own interests. These people are afflicted with something different and aim for a different goal and say different things. They realize that some of the problems are natural ones and cannot eradicate official corruption; that this takes time; and that given the war and so much hostility by our enemies, charity exists and no shortages can be seen. Some realize this, some do not. However, these people portray themselves as having no bias and bearing no grudge and relieve their burden in this manner.

In this 10-day period, the 1st year of the Hijrat decade [decade of Khomeyni's arrival in Iran], we hope that the great God will give us success, competence, and opportunities for this martyr-nurturing ummah so that the ummah can solve the above 10 or 11 problems and also solve this latest problem through the final victory of the revolution. God willing, it will solve the problems so that these people with ill intentions will lose the basis of their argument. [crowd chants] I will correct my mistake. I meant the dawn period, not the Hijrat 10-day period. [passage omitted]

I must say that the ceremonies held for the 10 Days of Dawn decade and the marches yesterday were really glorious. They were held all over the country and in Tehran. What we saw of these ceremonies—participation by the people in sending assistance to the war fronts, participation in troop dispatches—one may well say that every single act by Iranians here is a masterpiece. All indicate how the Iranians are proving in the best possible way their faith, their self-denial, self-sacrifice, and their devotion to Islam. Indeed, everybody must—of course, I

speak for myself because I cannot speak for others—be grateful, thankful. I thank you and hope that God will offer blessings to all those who participate in these actions.

We see the deep effects of these actions both among friends, foes, and those who simply watch and wait. They wait for another full year to see whether or not this year the people will get tired. They see that this year the people are not tired, so they say let us see whether next year the people will get tired. The people have achieved many goals. They do not tire but those who watch and wait for you to tire are themselves now tired. [crowd chants]

Editorial Report on TV Film From Inside Country

LD122305 [Editorial Report] London ITV Television Network in English at 2015 GMT on 12 February carries a 45-minute program in the series "Dispatches," entitled "Iran: A Widening Gulf" presented by Tim Hodlin. The opening sequence shows a large ship on fire, sailors watching other ships through binoculars, man addressing crowd in street, view of a mosque, and street scenes.

The program begins with distant shots of ships as an Iranian frigate begins its patrol. Camera shows shots of the ship's superstructure, sailors on deck manning guns, views of the coast. Video cuts to an Iranian propaganda film showing IRGC gunboats at high speed, groups of men chanting. Video returns to the view from Iranian frigate's bridge, showing officers on duty, men manning guns, distant view of warship approaching, sailors watching through binoculars, officers checking Jane's to identify approaching ship. Hodlin then interviews an Iranian officer on duty on how they approach foreign warships. Video returns to more views of the U.S. warship, with views of the ship from all round.

The program then cuts to an interview with President Khamene'i. Hodlin asks questions in English, Khamene'i replies in Persian with English subtitles. Khamene'i says: "The presence of foreign navies cannot affect anything. Within a year attacks have increased from all sides. The warships have created greater insecurity. To achieve security in the Persian Gulf, the roots of the insecurity should be found and eliminated rather than bringing in warships." He goes on to restate Iran's view that Iraq created the problem with their attacks on shipping, and calls for political and economic pressure on Iraq to end the attacks.

The program then returns to the Gulf, with a view of an Italian destroyer escorting a container ship. Hodlin says that the Iranian ship will not interfere. Video shows the container ship sailing by, with a helicopter preceding the ship and the Italian vessel behind.

Video cuts again to an "exclusive" Iranian propaganda film showing IRGC gunboats moving at high speed to attack a hulk with RPG's in a training exercise.

Hodlin then interviews Admiral Malekzadegan, commander of the Iranian Navy. Hodlin asks his questions in English, Malekzadegan replies in Persian with English subtitles. Hodlin asks if there is any difference between the Iranian Navy and the IRGC in their gunboats. Malekzadegan says: "The Navy's assignment in this region is clear: to defend our ports and islands, keep shipping lanes open, and defend the Islamic Republic's interests. In general, we use our own units, helicopters, boats, destroyers, hovercraft, etc. The Revolution Guards are our brothers, but are responsible for their own assignments, in conjunction with us. We have our own independent duties."

The video then returns to the Iranian frigate in the Gulf and shows a Liberian freighter, the "Billy Fay", being halted for inspection. The Iranian boarding party is seen being briefed by an officer, dropping into an inflatable raft, and setting off for the freighter. The video shows close-ups of the small arms carried by the boarding party.

The video then cuts to a shot of a man addressing a crowd in a city street, crowds of people marching in a demonstration of support of Khomeyni's role as the supreme jurisconsult, and shows a group of volunteers walking along a street on their way to serve at the front.

Hodlin then notes the West's view of Iran as always fighting or demonstrating and goes on to describe the role of the clergy in the Islamic Republic. The video shows a mosque, while Hodlin notes that religion is the key to Iranian unity. Video shows exterior and interior shots of a religious college with students preparing for religious and political power. Hodlin then interviews Ayatollah Imami Kashani, head of the Council of Guardians, on the difference between the velayat-e faqih and dictatorship. Kashani, speaking in Persian with English subtitles, explains the differences: A dictator considers himself above the law and acts from selfish motives, whereas the role of the velayat-e faqih is constitutional: rule through executive authority, parliamentary legislation, and law.

The program returns to shots of a crowd at Friday prayers and notes how Friday prayers are used to present new ideas to the people. Hodlin notes that Iran faces problems when Khomeyni dies if his successor is unable, as supreme jurisconsult, to command such a vast following as Khomeyni has.

The video then cuts to a further interview with Khamene'i on the Iranian Constitution and the rule of divine law. The program then shows an Iranian TV film of the sealing of Khomeyni's will, and goes on to show a religious discussion group discussing velayat-e faqih.

Hodlin goes on to describe the economic situation of the poor in Iran, noting the rationing and high prices. He interviews a shopkeeper in English on the high prices of various goods. Hodlin notes that while there may be war-weariness among the people, there is no waning of

their support for Khomeyni. The program then shows archival film of the shah visiting Disneyland, cutting to shots of Iranian women receiving weapons training. He notes the role of women in the war.

Hodlin then returns to his interview with Khamene'i and discusses the prospects for Iran after the war. Hodlin asks if Khamene'i is concerned that different political opinions may emerge among the people after the war. Khamene'i replies: "With God's help, when peace is established, many problems will be solved. The war already consumes a major part of our resources, which could be used for rebuilding after the war. So peace will actually rid us of problems rather than create them." Hodlin asks Khamene'i to explain Iran's demand that the world recognizes that "Iraq started the war." Khamene'i says the future of both Iran and Iraq "depends on identification of the aggressor and guarantees of no further aggression in the future."

The program then returns to the Iranian TV film, showing tanks crossing bare terrain, firing their guns, men in boats, and rockets being fired. Hodlin goes on to discuss how Iran is developing its own weapons. He notes that Iraq, unlike Iran, is receiving advanced weapons from the West and from the USSR. He then interviews Rafiqdust, the minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, who says "We used to fight with weapons bought from abroad, now we produce ten times more ourselves. Sophisticated weapons are not decisive in this war. Recently we used these basic sorts of weapons to capture twenty tanks and personnel carriers. We have started to be self sufficient in military hardware and we can show you more examples every day."

The program then returns to the frigate in the Gulf, and shows the boarding party arriving on the freighter. The video shows the guards questioning the ship's officers, examining the freight manifest, and looking into the holds. Hodlin notes that the Western armada has so far done little to deter the boarding parties and their examination of shipping. He notes that the regular Navy expects further demands on its services and notes that Iran is preparing to service, refit, and build its own ships. He returns to his interview with navy commander Malekzadegan, who says: "We have started building our own warships and with God's will, we will launch them next year." He goes to say that the world will see that Iran is successfully building and refitting its own vessels.

The program then returns to the frigate in the Gulf and shows the boarding party returning from its inspection of the container ship. The program closes with shots of the men climbing back on board the frigate and shows general views of the ship and its guns. Hodlin concludes that Iran sees no reason to soften its international position. He says the Iranians feel they have no one to trust but themselves and their God.

Musavi Interviewed by Tehran English, Part I

LD121105 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, I hope you have enjoyed our program so far. Now it's time for the last segment of our special features on the 10 Days of Dawn, which is an interview with the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the auspicious 10 Days of Dawn and at the beginning of the 10th year of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, we came to the presence of Mr Musavi, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to ask questions on certain issues. We asked Mr Musavi:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] While thanking you for giving us your time, I raise my first question about the extent of the success of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its inclination toward Third World countries in political and economic relations in view of the fact that this policy has been emphasized both in the constitution and also on numerous occasions by the officials of the Islamic Republic. Please give your assessment of this success.

[Musavi, in Persian with superimposed English translation] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. One of the most important objectives of the Islamic Republic system has been to proceed toward the deprived and oppressed nations and to confront the imperialist forces. We can say that our overall system, with the government being a part of it, has had remarkable achievements. First, we have established a deep emoitional and spiritual relationship with the oppressed people of the world and the Third world, and it is proper time to mention two or three examples. [passage omitted on warm welcome giving the president on his trips]

One of the most important issues, which would be no less, is that in the present day world we have no weapon more powerful than that of the inclination of the deprived people of the world toward us for implementing our foreign policy. This means that we are not attacked in the region, which is surrounded by reactionary elements. It is because of the fear of us and also of their own people who like us. I consider it to be a part of the achievements of the Islamic republic system, a system altogether, and consequently the government, have moved in the pursuit of this issue. [sentence as heard]

Our link with the Third World is very creative and constructive. the volume of our commercial exchanges with the Third World was about 3 percent of the total foreign trade before the victory of the revolution, whereas today it is about 20 percent. Despite the fact that it is said that the Third World countries have nothing to exchange with each other and some of the countries which took pride in supporting the Third World states raised the South-South issue in the face of the North-South issue—that is the deprived region of the

Third World Versus the Western Europe and the industrial world-we want to say that we have been successful in relations to the South, not in words but in practice. We feel that the extent of these relations can also be expanded further. in other words, the figure which we secured and which covers a considerable part of our foreign trade can be increased to higher levels. [passage omitted on history of liberation movements before 1979]

This experience, that is the survival of a revolution of apparently a low capacity, in the face of all these aggressions is the same thing that makes people hopeful. This means that the despair of 1978, in my opinion, has led to this hope that the Muslims are no more hopeless in this or that part of the world. They know that their future depends on their efforts and if they make endeavors, God will grant them victory. This is the greatest achievement of the Islamic revolution in the present day world, and it has led to some unrest against the world imperialism.

I was just looking at a picture in which the Palestinian flag was hoisted on the minaret of a mosque. Well, this is something very expressive and shows that this flag, this national identify for whose assertion against Islamic beliefs effortw were being made, has taken the Palestinians to a point where they are making a return to Islam. Ths new hope is so powerful that the Arab population which has been deceived has no apprehension in the face of the hostile and brutal armed forces of the Zionists. Rather, the Arabs confront the zionist forces by engaging them. In the ensuing clashes, the Zionists break the Arabs' arms and hands and pull out pateints out of hospitals, massacring them in the process. Despite all this, Palestinian men, women, and children are waging their combat today. We think that this struggle has been revived by the Islamic revolution in the world. [end recording]

[Announcer] Dear listeners, you will listen to the second and final part of this interview in our tomorrow's program.

Musavi Interview, Part II

LD121126 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Now it is time for the second part of our interview with the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] In your remarks you made a reference to the uprising of Palestinian people with regard to the fact that in your previous answer you gave an account of the impact of the victory of the Islamic revolution (?in this direction). While keeping the [words indistinct] escalation back that is at present underway as regards this uprising, I would like to request that if you had a particular message for the Palestinian people, please state it.

[Musavi, in Persian with superimposed English translation] We have a message for Muslims in general, which is also one for the Palestinian people. Our message for all Muslims, which is also in close relation with the issue of Palestine, is that in Islamic countries the national identity is inseparable from Islamic identity, and these two are identical and interdependent. If you reach out your hand and, from the collection of cultural elements throughout the history of past, draw one from among all the Islamic countries without selecting any particular one, you will find out that 99 percent of them relish in Islam and, whether directly of indirectly, are in connection with Islamic values, judgments, and ideology. These two identities are, in fact, a single interrelated identity and constitute a kind of tie among all Muslims nations. This means that the great Islamic ummah and finds himself attached to this large universe throughout the world. [sentence as heard] My impression is that our nation and all Muslims in all communities are such.

They do not consider their fate to be separated from that of other countries. If a black Muslim in America is tyrannized today, there will be a reaction to it in other countries. Also in Palestine this problem is showing itself. In Palestine, the leftist and rightist movements have been tested in all efforts aimed at liberating the Palestinian territory. Some of these moves have also been sincere, but all have failed, giving no results. That is, we continuously witness the Arab reactionary governments inclining toward the West and Zionism, further repression of the Arabs and expansion of the siege of Palestine, and further establishment of the Zionist system there. [sentence as heard].

We think that the solution of gaining the liberation of Palestine and all the world Muslims is no other than Islamic solution, and our understanding of the issue is that national identity and Islamic identity are interdependent, identical, and indivisible in Palestine. Another point which can give momentum to the efforts of the Palestinian people is that their Islamic war will [word indistinct] dynamite all Muslim nations.

The billion plus Muslim ummah is sensitive to the Palestinian problem and to Bayt al-Moqaddas as well as Al-Aqsa' mosque, which is the station of ascension of the holy prophet; and by tending toward an Islamic solution, the Palestinians will unify one billion Muslims in their own support and will witness that, in spite of the fact that at the moment the Arab governments do not even have the courage to give permission for staging a rally to their nations in favor of Palestinain ummah. Eventually, the Palestinian people will interest, drive, and look, and will change all these factualities and turn the tide to the benefit of themselves. God willing, this endeared part of the big Islamic territory will return to Islam.

[Unidentified correspondent] As you are aware, concerning the imposed war, some negotiations are in progress in Resolution 598 in the UN Security Council. Please, state

the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran about these negotiations and the Security Council with which you earlier refused to conduct any sort of negotiations.

[Musavi] We have a quite [words indistinct] we defenitely declared, and it is that in our principle we remain quite irreconcilable and uncompromising; and since our power emanates from our school and people, no international decision or agreement, whether reached openly of secretly, will have any impact or effect on our fundamental decisions and essential [words indistinct] of our revolution. This raised one point: The rock face which was shown against the Islamic Revolution in the Persian Gulf several months ago demonstrates the collusion among powers, including the Western industrialized powers and that they want to suppress us and think that we will be intimidated and retreat or back down.

But we stood firmly, and for that reason if there is any illusion that bringing about a kind of adverse atmosphere in international organizations, including the UN and the Security Council, would have any effect on our fundamental decesions, then this is a misconception of the Islamic revolution. We think that this view must be improved. Those who are hopeful that through the Security Council of the UN or other international organizations they can bring pressure on us should rest assured that we shall not yield to such things. At the beginning of the revolution also some pressure was out to bear on us through the human rights organization, Amnesty International, and their likes.

As regards to your comments that there has been a change, it is not a change in principle. We have not backed down. When the resolution was put forth we deemed it advisable to act at that juncture to declare to the world that we would not yield to these pressures; but the fact that we would not yield did not mean that we should not make efforts to reduce pressures brought to bear on us in order to have time for timing and have been changed to continue the war victoriously and, at the same time, resolve other problems of ours.

As a basis, such a policy was adopted. If you look at this issue closely, you will see for yourself that the adoption of this policy in which, of course, the resistance of the people and combatants have had an effect and led to the fact that America failed to get what it expected from that resolution [as heard].

America had thought that by scuttling "Iran-Ajr" merchant vessel, a change would emerge in the region and the day after we would announce our surrender. But none of these incodents happened, for the main element of the will of our nation and combatants is resistance and endurance in the battlefield. Political maneuvers became also effective in the next stage and because of that the siege has been broken today and presently Western forces are withdrawing their vessels and warships. If we draw a comparison between our present state in the Persian Gulf and the one earlier to these incidents, then we are now more powerful. Relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and certain European countries, specifically France and Britain, was chilly in the beginning of the current Iranian year, but now we can witness that relations have been improved with these countries and some talks are also in progress for improvement in ties with some other countries. [passage omitted]

Our principles in relation to the whole world are the same. We pursue a policy based on mutual interest toward other country. [passage omitted]

In the face of this issue, we will have just and fair ties based on mutual interest with any country which recognizes this fact. For example, we recently heard Britons declaring that they have to recognize the reality of the Islamic Revolution. However, recognition of the reality of the Islamic Revolution should not be restricted to just holding (?decisions) and reporting to the British House of Commons, and it is not a mere party or four [as heard]. Rather, it is to practically recognize the reality. The more they show progress in this regards, we will have a better relationship. Clearly, our relations with Britain are seriously affected by the colonialist background of Britain in our country. Britain did not forget their so-called old nature [words indistinct] when they were once the biggest superpower of the world and had employed freemasonary elements. We hold the opinion that they should part with such a thinking and that they can have just relations with us based on mutual interest, but not on a unilateral (?basis).

It is the same in [words indistinct] too, and we have always noted the issue with the European states to seek their interests away from those of the arch-satan. We have told them not to confront each other. We have always told them that if you desire to have a fair and satisfactory relation in the region, especially with Iran, which is a determining power, then you should recognize this force with the power it (?deserves) and establish a just and fair relation. [passage omitted] Today, some improvements which are being observed in our relations with France are due to the observance of the same issue, or, on the contrary, if [words indistinct] even then we shall not neglect our policy. We shall still effect it by the same [words indistinct] [end recording]

Musavi Attends Ceremony Launching Vessel

LD111721 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Bushehr, Feb. 11, IRNA—The biggest buoy-laying vessel made by Iranian experts was launched at Bushehr port Wednesday in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

The vessel measuring 67 x 14 meters and 5.20 meters in height has a draught of 3.90 centimeters and is capable of laying buoys with a speed of 12 knots up to a distance of 6,000 nautical miles from the coasts.

The vessel equipped with two 20-ton cranes has a storage capacity of 1,100 cubic meters and a 40-man crew.

At the ceremony, the premier pointing to the blooming of talents after the victory of the Islamic Revolution (1979) said Iran was totally dependent on Western culture and economy before the revolution.

Said Musavi, "They (West) considered us as a people with no creative power." But, he added, Iranian experts and workers discovered their inborn talents and put their capabilities and creative powers to excellent use following the Islamic Revolution's triumph.

Spokesman Denies Talks on Jewish Emigration

LD151024 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman today categorically denied claims by Israeli radio and French weekly LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR that talks were under way between Iranian and Zionist regime officials on immigration [as received] of Iranian Jews to the occupied Palestine.

The spokesman reiterated the Islamic Republic's condemnation of the Zionist regime for its atrocities against Palestinian Muslims and said such claims are fabricated by news imperialism to demoralize Palestinian revolutionaries and also hamper their Islamic movement.

Lebanon's Fadlallah Inaugurates Mosque in Qom

LD121842 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Qom, Feb. 12, IRNA—The prominent Lebanese Al-'Allamah Sayyid Husayn Fadlallah currently in Iran inaugurated here Thursday a mosque of Iraqi Muslims on the occasion of the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Al-'Allamah Fadlallah said that Muslim people of Iraq should properly use these mosques as centers for attracting Iraqi combatant forces and for propagation against the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

Addressing the Muslim Iraqi people he said "you are now witnessing the results of the export of the Islamic Revolution in the occupied Palestine and Lebanon" and that the new phase of Muslim Palestinian uprising against Zionism stems from the ideals of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Al-'Allamah Fadlallah also extolled the resistance of the Islamic revolution led by Imam Khomeyni against the bullies of the U.S. and its allies in the Persian Gulf.

In the opening ceremony several ulema, members of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, a group of foreign theologians and students of theological schools residing in Qom and a large group of Iraqi refugees were present.

Khatami Notes 1988 Mecca Pilgrimage Plans

LD141111 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] After today's Cabinet session, Mr Khatami, the culture and Islamic Guidance minister, in an interview with our correspondent, discussed the latest decisions made on the presence of Iranian pilgrims in the house of God [Mecca] in 1988. He said: Iran will be ready to take part in the politico-religious hajj ceremonies this year. Neither the Saudi regime nor any other corrupt regime has the right to forbid Muslims from performing their most necessary Islamic duties.

He added: The crime committed by the Saudi regime in Mecca last year displayed the corrupt nature of this regime. It evoked the wrath of the world's Muslims. If, God forbid, it prevents Muslims from going to holy Mecca, it will be a further example of this regime's creating obstacles in our path to God. To prevent Muslims from going to the holy mosque is tantamount to fighting Muslims. If this happens, the Saudi regime will not be fighting just the Islamic Republic of Iran, but all free Muslims.

F-4 Successfully Tested After Domestic Repairs

LD151903 Tehran IRNA in English 1856 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—A grounded Iranian Air Force Phantom F-4 jet fighter which underwent full repairs domestically was successfully flight-tested for combat operations in a special ceremony here today.

The commander of the repair team, disclosed at the ceremony that Iranian aviation experts fully repaired the fighter without the slightest help of foreigners. Despite countless plots of global arrogance against the Islamic Republic including economic sanctions, Iranian experts have made great strides towards self-sufficiency, he added.

He said the fighter was damaged during military operations last year but its efficient pilot managed to land it safely at an airfield in spite of the fact that none of the plane's wheels had opened.

According to flight regulations, he said, the pilot should have bailed out of the plane.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,110

LD121726 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA—Iranian fighters in two separate missions heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites east of Basra at 06:40 and

09:05 GMT Friday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy and returning safely to bases, as a reprisal against the yesterday's Iraqi air raid on a non-military center in Iran.

Announcing the above here today, the 3110th Joint Staff Communique said the Islamic Republic Air Force on Thursday carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to provide air cover for the Navy and reconnoiter position of foreign vessels in the waterway.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian gunboats intercepted and searched 11 cargo ships and oil tankers yesterday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

Iran's Muslim combatants repelled Iraqi patrol units in Nahr 'Anbar, western sector and prevented enemy from landing troops in Hoseyniyeh, southern sector, yesterday.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and an enemy vehicle was destroyed in a southern theater by Iranian artillery fire Thursday.

Iranian artillery fire checked movement of Iraqi motorized columns in Helaleh, western fronts and enemy engineering operations in Panjwin, northwestern sector, yesterday, the communique concluded.

Communique No 3,111

LD131647 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and searched six cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, according to a military communique here Saturday.

Communique Number 3111 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday to provide air cover for the Navy despite receiving several warnings from foreign warships.

Meanwhile, exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued sporadically throughout the battlefields Friday raging somewhat more heavily in the southern sector.

In Panjwin, northwestern fronts, Iranian artillery fire prevented an Iraqi infantry unit from fortifying their position and also inflicted heavy losses on a number of enemy tanks Friday.

Several Iraqi observation posts and parts of enemy fortifications were set ablaze in the western fronts yesterday when shelled by Iranian artillery fire.

A number of heavy Iraqi engineering vehicles attempting to set up embankments in Salehabad sustained heavy losses and their activities were halted by Iranian artillery fire yesterday.

Iran's Muslim combatants reconnoitered and shelled an Iraqi patrol convoy in Chananeh, southern sector, early Friday, killing or wounding a number of enemy patrolmen and forcing the others to flee.

On Friday, Iraqi forces sustained several casualties and 10 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts were destroyed in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

Heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire checked reconniassance flights of Iraqi helicopters over Naft-e Shah, Mandali, Kani-Sheykh and Helaleh, western sectors Friday.

On Thursday, several Iraqi patrolmen were killed or wounded in a clash with an Iranian patrol unit in a southern theater, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,112

LD141704 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and searched four cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certian they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

The 3112th Joint Staff Communique, announcing the above, reported here Sunday that the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday in support of the Navy.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire between Iran's Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops continued throughout the battlefields yesterday with Iraqis sustaining considerable casualties and losses.

Iranian artillery fire pounded Iraqi engineering vehicles in Hoseyiniyeh, southern sector, Saturday, inflicting several casualties and losses on enemy troops.

On Saturday, Iranian Gendarmerie forces killed a number of Iraqi troops besides checking enemy engineering operations in parts of the southern and western sectors.

In the northwestern and western fronts, heavy artillery firre of the Muslim combatants checked movement of enemy motorized columns in Panjwin, Naft-e Shah and Kani-Sheykh yesterday, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Electrical Pylons Destroyed

LD141902 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, Feb. 14, IRNA—Some eight high voltage electric pylons in Dahuk Province, northern Iraq were destroyed by commandos of the special Shahadat (Martyrdom) Battalion over the past two days plunging Batufa, Bangava and Kani Masi towns in total darkness.

Ramadan Headquarters, announcing the above, said the Shahadat forces along with Peshmergas of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) besides cutting the electric cables severed telephone links between the Iraqi towns of Zakhu-Batufa and Dahuk-Al-'Amadiyah.

The KDP forces also destroyed some governmental centers in Batufa during a series of successful operations over the past few days. Five Ba'thist mercenaries including an officer were killed while five others were captured in the course of the operations.

Iraqis Shell Residential Areas

LD131636 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—Residential regions of Bayangan District, suburbs of Paver (Bakhtaran Province) were shelled by Iraqi artillery at 14:30 hours local time (11:00 GMT) Thursday. Some housing units of the district were damaged in the course of shellings by Iraqi long-range artillery fire.

Communique No 3,113

LD151640 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombarded Iraqi positions and fortifications in the operational regions east of Basra and in Al-Faw as well as the Basra petrochemical complex Monday. All the attacking fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy. The bombing missions took place at 09:05, 10:35, 12:00, 15:15 and 16:10 hours local time (05:35, 07:05, 08:30, 11:45 and 12:40 GMT).

Announcing the above here today the 3113th Joint Staff Communique added that the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Sunday to provide air cover for the navy and reconnoiter position of foreign vessels in the waterway.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the fronts yesterday raging somewhat more heavily in the western sector, where a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and an enemy vehicle and several bunkers and observation posts were set ablaze.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western sectors Sunday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying a vehicle and several gun emplacements of theirs.

Several Iraqi vehicles were destroyed when Iranian artillery fire pounded an enemy motorized column south of Naft-e Shah, western fronts, yesterday.

The fire of Iran's Muslim combatants suppressed activities of Iraqi tanks in Nahr 'Anbar, Panjwin and Helaleh, western and northwestern sectors Sunday, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

Noorani To Visit U.S., UK, PRC, Iran

BK151645 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, left Islamabad for Karachi this evening on his way to Washington for talks with American leaders on the latest developments on the Afghanistan issue. Talking to newsmen, he underlined the need for reaching a viable and implementable agreement leading to withdrawal of Soviet troops and return of Afghan refugees to their homeland. He said: Of late, the Afghanistan situation has gained tremendous momentum with the conclusion of Mr Cordovez's shuttle, the latest announcement by Mr Gorbachev, and visits to Pakistan by the Soviet deputy foreign minister, Mr Yuliy Vorontsov. They have reached a stage where immediate and practical steps should be taken toward reaching an agreement.

Mr Zain Noorani said Pakistan intends to hold very close consultations with its friends, which include China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Britain, and the European Community. During his stay in Washington he will meet the American secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, and hold consultations with officials of the State Department. The minister of state said talks with U.S. officials were necessary and important because of two reasons. Firstly, the United States was one of the two designated guarantors for an agreement on Afghanistan, and secondly, Mr George Shultz is to visit Moscow next month for talks on various issues including Afghanistan.

He said he will visit London on way back from Washington. He will also visit China from the 21st of this month to hold similar consultations with Chinese leaders. He will later visit Saudi Arabia and Brussels for consultations with Saudi and European Community leaders on the Afghanistan problem. Consultations with Iranian leaders in Tehran would be undertaken in the next few days.

Replying to a question, Mr Zain Noorani said he has been told that some progress has been made on the question of formation of an interim government in Afghanistan.

About reported Indian efforts for a solution of the Afghanistan probiem, Mr Zain Noorani said India was only making a political capital out of the situation. India kept herself out of the mainstream of world public opinion for the last 8 years and now, when the solution seems at hand, India does not want to be completely left out. However, he added that Pakistan would welcome assistance, cooperation, and help from any quarter as long as it was constructive.

Agreement To Return Fishermen Signed With India

BK121556 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Pakistan and India have signed an agreement under which the two countries will take the necessary steps to return each other's detained fishermen and fishing trawlers. This agreement was signed after the second round of the 2-day meetings being held by officials in Islamabad. The strategy for the implementation of the agreement will take final shape in mutual consultations as soon as possible.

The talks were held in an extremely cordial atmosphere and both countries agreed to settle the issue in a friendly manner following a detailed review of the steps taken on the basis of the decisions of past meetings. Both sides also agreed on steps to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future.

Libya's Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Cooperation Accord Signed

BK131634 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Pakistan and Libya have signed an agreement enhancing economic and trade exchanges and cultural cooperation. The agreement was concluded at the 10th session of Pakistan-Libya joint ministrial commission which ended in Islamabad today. Agreements were also finalized on social security, a cultural accord, and a protocol on recognition of diplomas and degrees between the two countries. The session was held in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere. Various aspects of essential matters concerning the promotion of cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, and culture were discussed.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr Zain Noorani led the Pakistani side, while the Libyan side was headed by its foreign minister, Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi.

Meets With Prime Minister

BK140514 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Libyan Foreign Minister Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi yesterday evening and discussed with him matters relating to Pakistani-Libyan relations. These ties are likely to further improve as a result of the 10th meeting of the joint ministerial commission and the agreements signed during this meeting. The prime minister later hosted a dinner in honor of the Libyan foreign minister.

Concludes Visit, Departs

BK140630 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Libyan Foreign Minister Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi has said that his talks with Pakistani leaders have been fruitful and positive, further strengthening friendly relations between the two fraternal countries. Talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport this morning prior to his departure for Tripoli at the end of his official visit, he affirmed that Pakistan and Libya are bound together by strong ties of Islamic brotherhood and share identical views on all problems facing the Islamic community. He was seen off at the airport by Zain Noorani, the minister of state for foreign affairs.

UAE President Departs After Week-Long Visit

BK140518 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan left Lahore for Dubayy yesterday after a 1-week stay. He was seen off at the airport by Punjab Governor Makhdoon Mohammad Sajjad Hussain Qureshi, Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, and others.

'Terrorists' Kill 8 in Punjab 13 Feb

BK140859 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] In Punjab, eight persons were shot dead by terrorists in three villages in Amritsar District in separate incidents last night. According to an official spokesman, four members of a family were gunned down in village Balachat while a man and his two sons were killed in village Fatuvilla. A boy was shot dead in Babuwan village. Police and security forces have launched a massive manhunt to apprehend the culprits.

Sri Lanka

Opposition Leader Reportedly Shot Dead

BK160913 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0857 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Colombo, Feb 16 (LANKA PUWATH)—Vijaya Kumaranatunge, popular film actor and son-in-law of the leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) Sirima Bandaranaike, and chief organiser of Sri Lanka Mahajana Party was shot dead by gunmen alleged to be subversives.

Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police (Crimes and Ranges) Leo Perera told LANKA PUWATH that Mr. Kumaranatunge was talking to people in the front verandah of his residence in Polhengoda Kirillapone in Colombo when two gunmen riding on a red coloured motorcycle had arrived and shot him at point blank range. Police said the death weapon was an automatic T56 rifle.

Aim of Batticaloa Search Operations Noted

BK121604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 feb 88

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi that the aim of the search operations launched by the peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province yesterday is to disarm the LTTE and prevent it from disrupting normal life. The entire district of Batticaloa has been put under indefinite curfew while the search operations are being carried out.

The spokesman said the objective is to create conditions for fostering democratic political processes and for building a climate of peace conducive to holding free and fair elections to the provincial councils. For this additional forces have been deployed in the Eastern Province. He said it is our hope that better sense will prevail and the LTTE will lay down arms, support the India-Sri Lankan agreement, and participate in the democratic political process.

The spokesman pointed out that curfew has been imposed in Batticaloa because of the known propensity of the LTTE to use civilians as a shield in its attack on the PKF and others. This is also primarily to ensure safety and security of the civilians.

The spokesman pointed out that in the past few weeks the LTTE has been trying to disrupt normal life in the Eastern Province and provoke communal unrest by attacks on Muslim and Sinhalese communities and others. It also killed a large number of Tamils and coerced and intimidated innocent people, especially in Batticaloa.